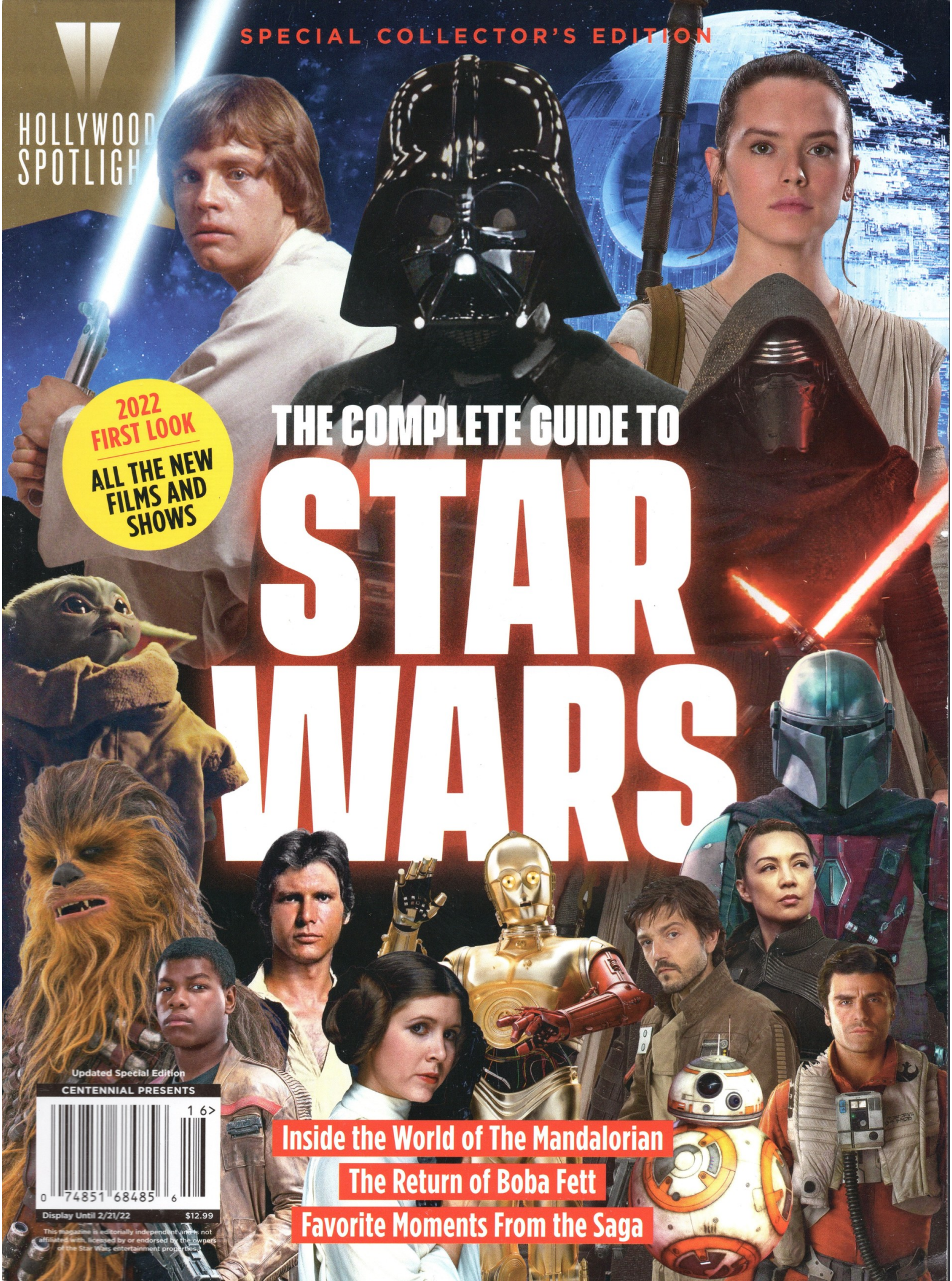
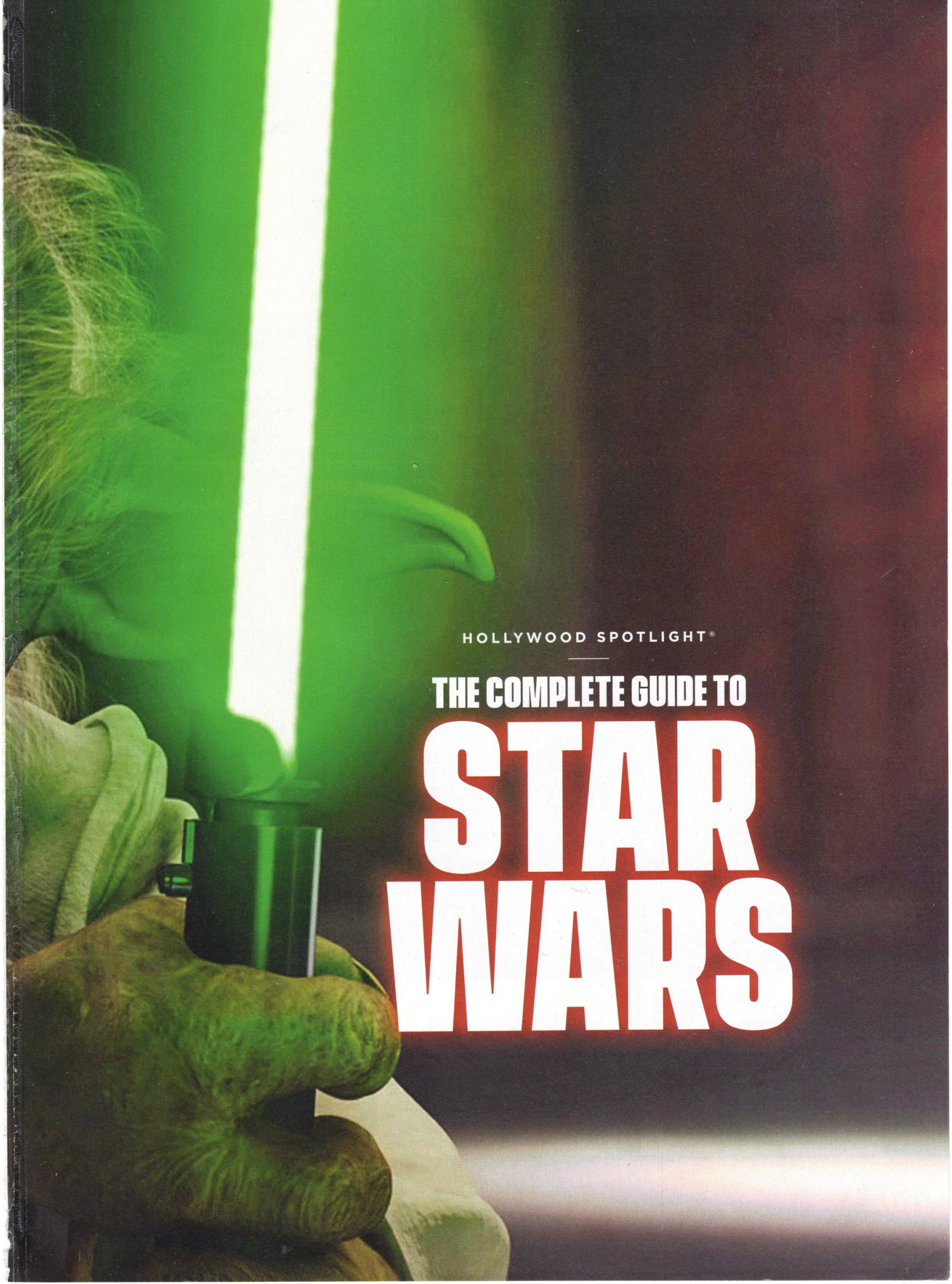

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Inside the World of The Mandalorian
The Return of Boba Fett
Favorite Moments From the Saga



A Breed Apart

Yoda's species still remains a mystery, with George Lucas joking that he's "the illegitimate child of Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy."



HOLLYWOOD SPOTLIGHT®

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO STAR WARS

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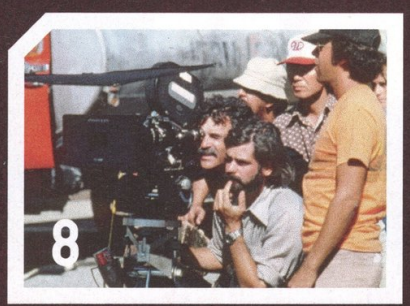
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Coming Full Circle

The ending of *Episode IX: The Rise of Skywalker* was deliberately designed to mimic exact shots from *Episode IV: A New Hope*.

A FORCE TO RECKON WITH

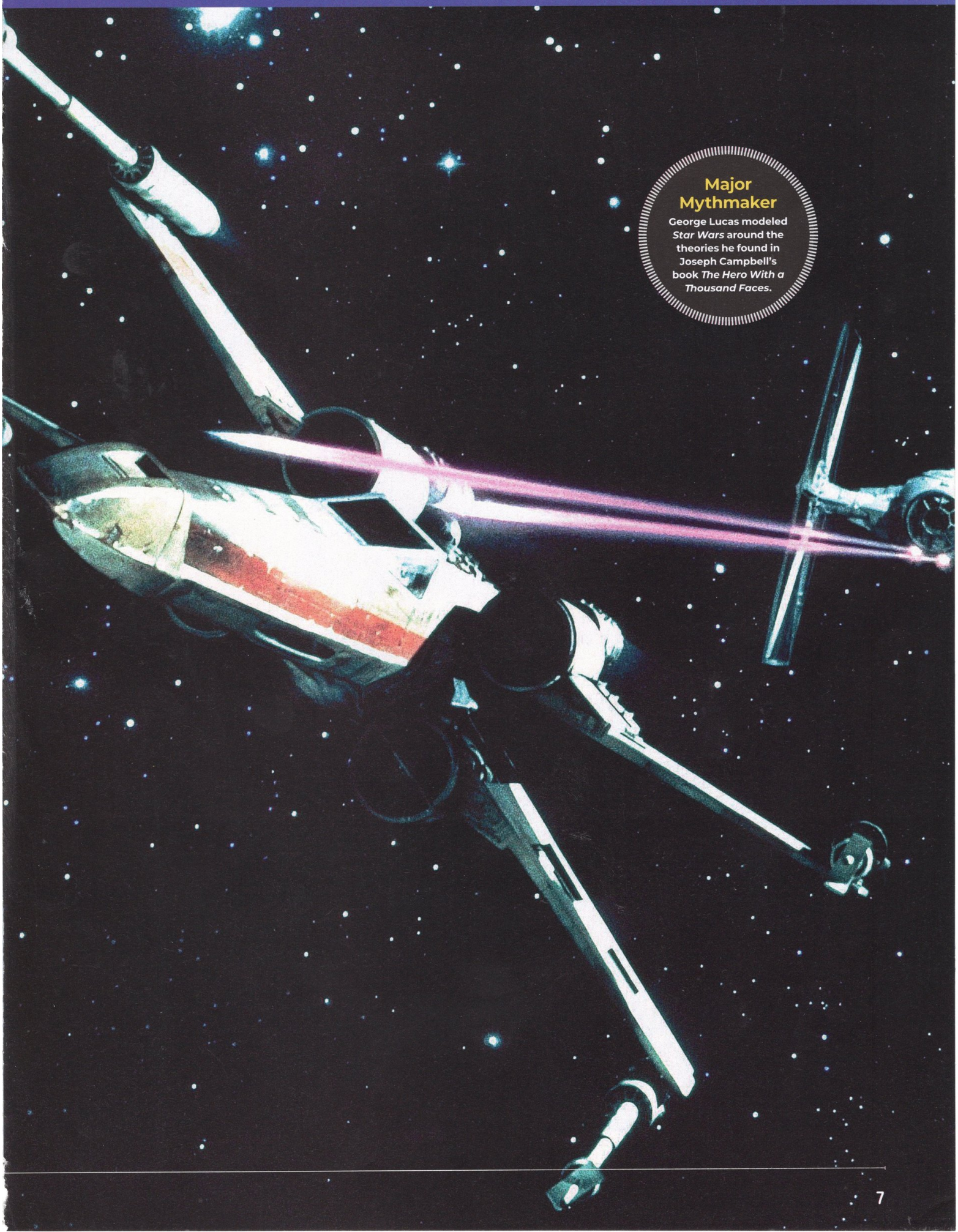
AFTER 40-PLUS YEARS, *STAR WARS* HAS BECOME FAR MORE THAN JUST A POPULAR MOVIE SERIES. FOR MANY, IT'S NOW ALSO A WAY OF LIFE.

Anyone who doubts that the Force is a real thing is clearly not a parent. OK, so maybe we can't teleport starships or convince someone those are not the droids they're looking for. Still, those of us with children are well aware that the mere mention of *Star Wars* or any of its multitude of famous characters—from Luke Skywalker to R2-D2 to Yoda—has the power to change lives and transform a crying kid into a happy Jedi warrior.

I can't even count the number of times I'd walk my reluctant first-grader to school and psych him up for the day by creating stories involving him battling alongside Han Solo and Chewbacca to save the galaxy. (A battle that, by the way, always ended with my boy pantsing Darth Vader to reveal the dastardly villain wore My Little Pony underwear.) Clearly, the franchise that has spawned numerous toys, books, comics, clothes and even cutlery has the same allure for adults, considering that the combined haul of all *Star Wars* products since the original film debuted in 1977 is around $70 billion.

Whether you're a fan of the films or just a casual observer, there's no doubt that the fantastical world created by George Lucas has been stitched forever into the fabric of our lives. Who hasn't urged on a friend in a tight spot by uttering, "Use the Force!" or eased their work stress by recalling, "Fear leads to anger, anger leads to hate, hate leads to suffering"? When Ronald Reagan wanted to create a defense system in space, what else could it be called but Star Wars?

Even now, I'm trying to use a Jedi mind trick to convince you to buy this exciting magazine featuring plenty of in-depth stories that offer insight into everything that has made *Star Wars* such a lasting phenomenon. The movies, books, sayings, games and outfits that you're about to explore in the following pages have become shared artifacts that bring us all together in a way that no other pop culture creation has ever done. This notion that ultimately we are all bound together was the lesson the original film showed the world. And, just like the Force, it remains strong in all of us. —*Craig Tomashoff*



Major Mythmaker

George Lucas modeled *Star Wars* around the theories he found in Joseph Campbell's book *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*.

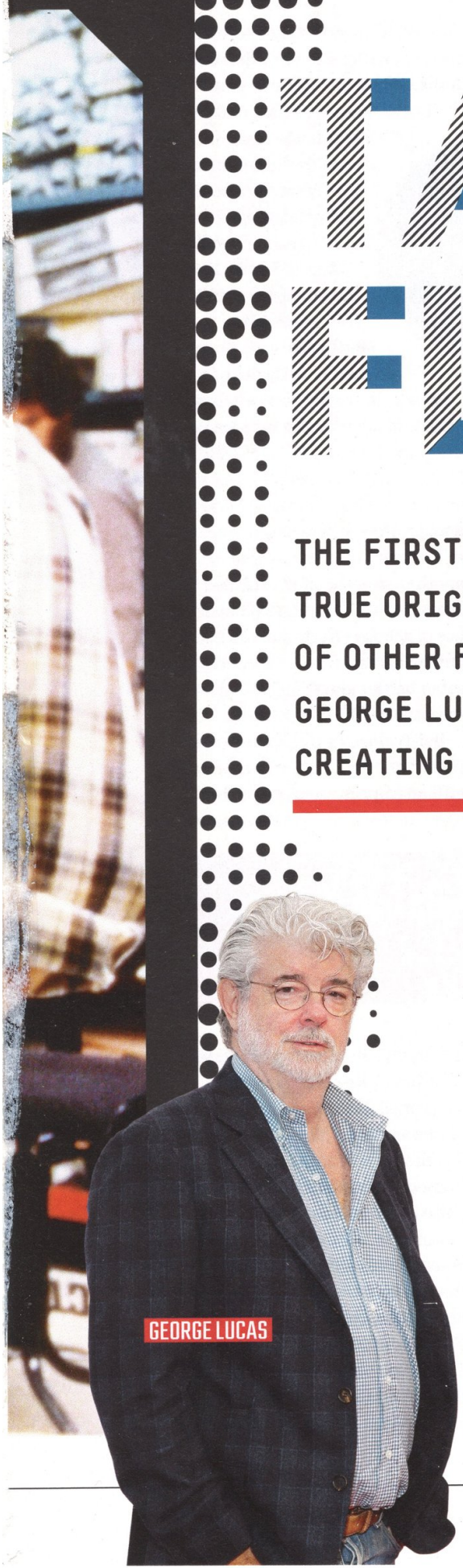


Changing Course

After graduating from high school, Lucas wanted to join the Air Force but was rejected because he had too many speeding tickets.

TAKING FLIGHT

THE FIRST *STAR WARS* WAS A TRUE ORIGINAL, BUT PLENTY OF OTHER FILMS INSPIRED GEORGE LUCAS WHEN HE WAS CREATING IT. BY JENNA HARDS


GEORGE LUCAS

Ever since its release in 1977, *Star Wars* has become an inspiration to new generations of filmmakers. As unique as this space opera seemed at the time, though, the young filmmaker who created it—George Lucas—was himself inspired by a long list of films that he grew up loving. From science fiction to Westerns to samurai epics, these movies showed him right from the start how much he wanted to blend a variety of familiar genres in order to serve up something that felt brand new.

Lucas' first major influence was not a movie, though. It was a newspaper comic strip: *Flash Gordon*. Created in 1934 by artist Alex Raymond and writer Don Moore, it followed the outer-space exploits of the titular adventurer and his two companions as they battled the evil emperor named Ming. The popular strip was turned into a series of *Flash Gordon* movie serials starting in 1936 and then a 1954 television series. The success inspired plenty of other films and shows that explored the adventurous, playful side of sci-fi during the 1950s. There were the *Buck Rogers* serials, along with TV shows like *Captain Video and His Video Rangers* and *Tom Corbett, Space Cadet*. Still, *Flash Gordon* was a particular Lucas favorite thanks in





Making a Big Flash

The original *Flash Gordon* film reportedly cost $350,000, which was triple what a traditional movie serial cost to make at the time.

Star Wars' iconic yellow scroll to start each film and the side-swipe transitions from scene to scene.

Lucas wasn't just fascinated by the lighter side of sci-fi. There were a few more serious films that also clearly influenced the *Star Wars* mastermind's futuristic fable. For instance, the acclaimed 1927 silent film *Metropolis*, which centered around the struggles of a human-like robot, seems to have at least a little to do with the idea behind everyone from R2-D2 and C-3PO to Darth Vader. Then there's 1956's award-winning *Forbidden Planet*, about a crew of astronauts who travel to a faraway planet in search of another crew that had vanished three years earlier. That film's pioneering use of special effects such as lasers and holograms foreshadowed Lucas' saber battles and Princess Leia's message to Obi-Wan Kenobi.

Sci-fi classics like these were important for Lucas when he was still an impressionable kid, but it was the work of Akira Kurosawa that thoroughly dominated his young adulthood. He discovered the acclaimed Japanese director while studying film at the University of Southern California and has said he immediately admired Kurosawa's ability to showcase Far Eastern cultures in Western films. He thrust viewers into unfamiliar settings like the world of the samurai, and none of his movies did that better than *Yojimbo* and *The Hidden Fortress*. The latter, which came out in 1958, follows a pair of bickering peasants who wander the land and wind up

> **"All the skill in the world isn't going to help you unless you have something to say."** GEORGE LUCAS

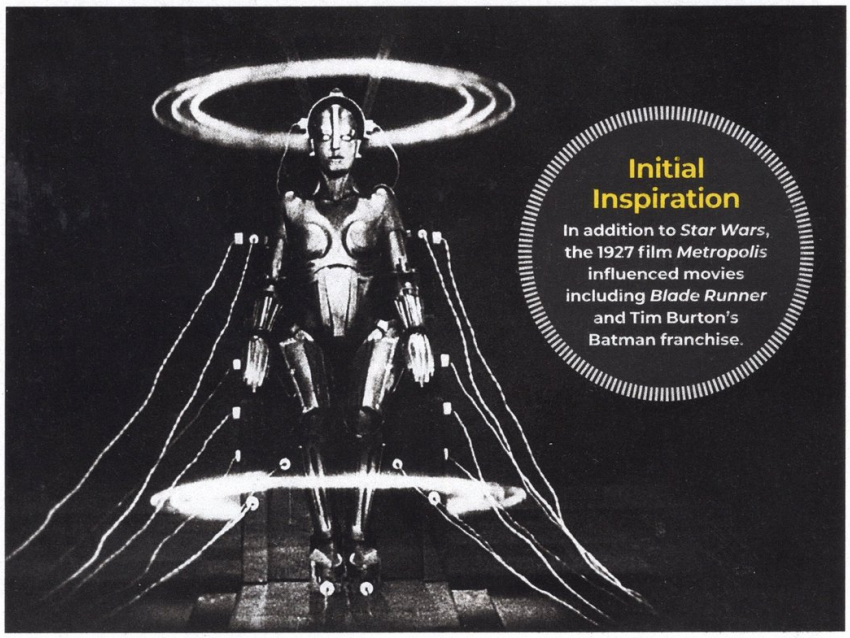
large part to the saga's simple, good versus evil storyline.

In fact, Lucas admired it so much that after his success with *American Graffiti* in 1973, he was hoping to make an updated *Flash Gordon* film. However, when he was unable to obtain the rights to the characters, he had to start developing his own sci-fi universe that bore a remarkable resemblance to what he'd grown up watching. It wasn't just the characters and story that were similar to *Flash Gordon*. He also lifted technical aspects from old sci-fi serials, like



helping a princess who is on the run during a civil war.

"The one thing I was really intrigued by was the fact that the story was told from the two lowest characters," Lucas said in a 2001 Criterion Collection interview. "I decided that would be a nice way to tell the story...that was the strongest influence. The fact that there was a princess trying to get through enemy lines was more of a coincidence than anything else.... In the beginning, in one of the first drafts, I did have a little bit more of her and a Jedi, an older Jedi, trying to escape but then it evolved into the story of Luke."



Initial Inspiration

In addition to *Star Wars*, the 1927 film *Metropolis* influenced movies including *Blade Runner* and Tim Burton's Batman franchise.

R2-D2 and C-3PO, of course, became Lucas-ized versions of the peasants. Meanwhile, *A New Hope*'s famous cantina scene was born when Lucas saw a similar scene in Kurosawa's 1961 release *Yojimbo*. Then there was the Japanese director's *Dersu Uzala*, which features a shot of the sun and moon together that Lucas echoed in his scenes on Luke's home planet of Tatooine.

It wasn't just Kurosawa's Eastern vision of Westerns that made its way into the first *Star Wars* film. So did actual Westerns, particularly *The Searchers*. This 1956 epic from director John Ford starred John Wayne as a Civil War veteran who undertakes a years-long quest to look for his abducted niece along with his innocent young nephew (Jeffrey Hunter). Much of the look of that film parallels images from *A New Hope*, especially the scene early on when Luke returns to see his aunt and uncle, only to find that they've been killed and their home destroyed. That's the moment that sends this young farm boy on his journey to become a Jedi, just as Wayne discovering the wreckage of his family home and his niece missing sets Hunter's character on what is ultimately a heroic path.

Even military movies made their way into *A New Hope*, particularly during the finale's intense action as Luke and his team work to blow up the Empire's Death Star. That famous scene is actually inspired by the finale of the 1956 British World War II epic *The Dam Busters*. From an announcement of the battle plan to fighter pilots communicating with each other as the attack unfolds to the ultimate explosion, the conclusions of both movies are almost identical.

Lucas' movie melting pot not only created what *The Hollywood*

Things Change

***Star Wars* could have been a very different film if these original plans had managed to come to pass.**

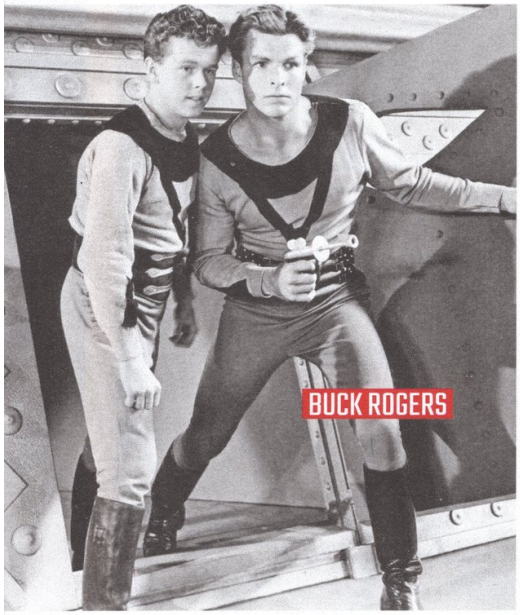
Freddy Krueger might have been Han Solo.
Robert Englund of *Nightmare on Elm Street* fame met with George Lucas to talk about the role of Han. That casting never happened, but Englund did play a major role in *Star Wars* history when he mentioned the part of Luke Skywalker to his roommate...a kid named Mark Hamill.

Han was almost green.
In the original version of his script, Lucas described his charming, commitment-phobic smuggler as a giant green alien.

Luke Skywalker wasn't going to be Luke Skywalker.
Lucas' original draft for his movie gave his central hero a different and more threatening name, Luke Starkiller.

The Force wasn't going to be the Force.
Likewise, he also didn't refer to the Jedi's mysterious power by the name we've come to know so well. Instead, he called it "the Whills."

R2-D2 was going to sound like a sailor.
Early drafts of the *Star Wars* script featured the droid now famous for his "beeps" and "boops" not only speaking English but using it to curse.



Star Man

How George Lucas took the wheel and created one of the most legendary franchises in Hollywood history.





(Top) There have been more than 50 film and TV versions of *Treasure Island*, the book that inspired George Lucas. (Bottom) Lucas said he "may have gone too far" after viewing *The Phantom Menace*.

George Walton Lucas Jr.'s interest in filmmaking and science fiction started long before his fame with the *Star Wars* franchise. Born May 14, 1944, he grew up in the tiny town of Modesto, California, surrounded by acres and acres of farmland. His first true passions were cars and drag racing, and he had plans to race for a living until a bad accident and a three-month hospital stay during his school years put an end to that dream. Although not a particularly good student, he did enjoy reading when he was young, and he devoured books like *Treasure Island*, as well as comics featuring space-trotting characters like *Flash Gordon* and *Buck Rogers*.

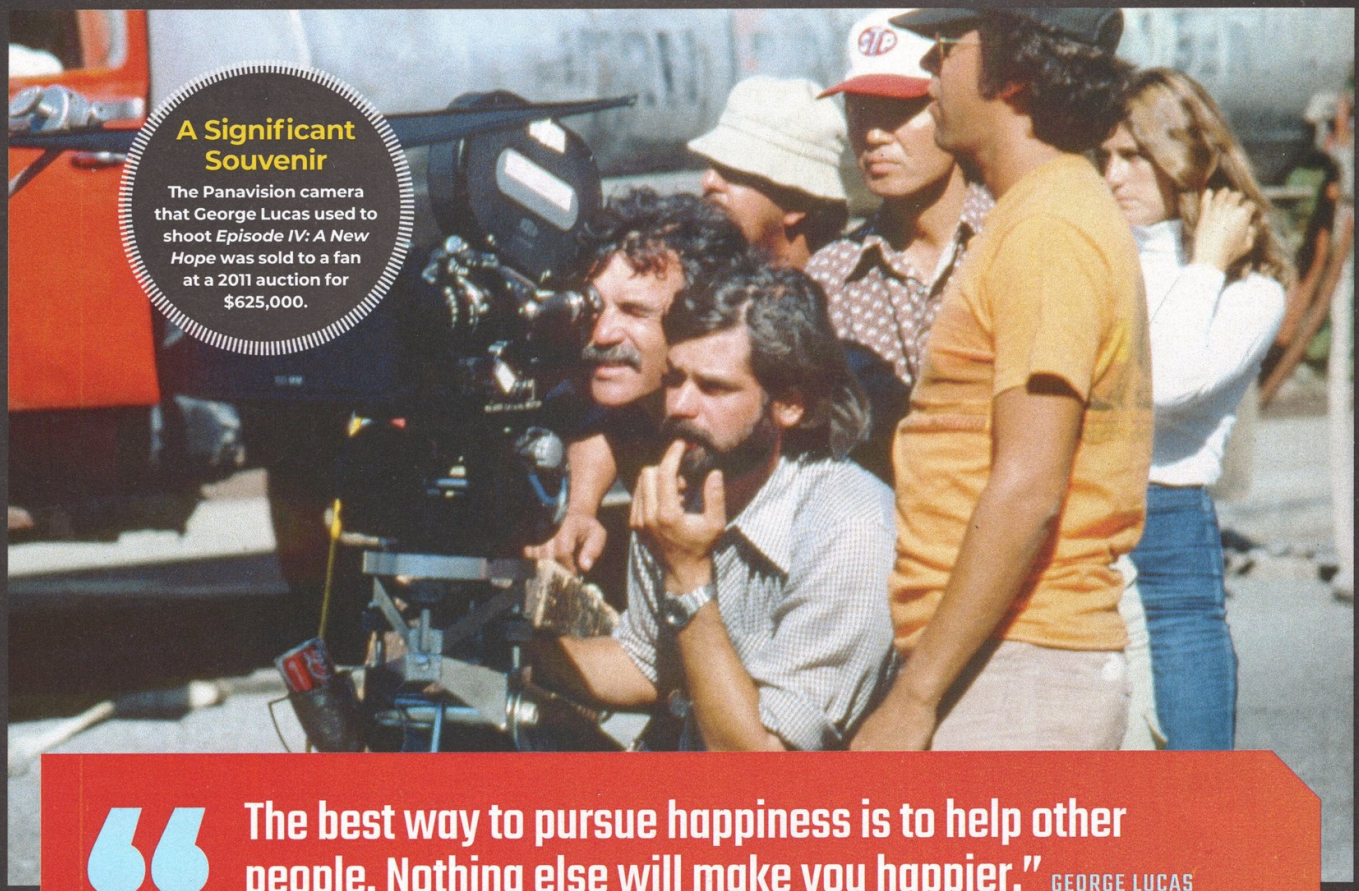
The storytelling skills Lucas learned from these tales served him well when he wound up at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, where he made eight student films, including a sci-fi project called *THX-1138* that won him first prize at the National Film Festival.

His filmmaking skills were good enough to earn an internship at Warner Bros. Studios, where he was able to turn *THX-1138* into a full-length feature. Even as he found success in the sci-fi world, though, it was a very earthbound project that caught Hollywood's attention. In 1973, he directed and co-wrote *American Graffiti*, the story of one

Reporter's review thought would "undoubtedly emerge as one of the true classics in the genre of science fiction/fantasy films," it also built a template for the future of cinema.

"What finally emerged through the many drafts of the script has obviously been influenced by science fiction and action-adventure I've read and seen," Lucas told *American Cinematographer* as *Star Wars: A New Hope* was being released. "I'm trying to make a classic sort of genre picture, a classic space fantasy in which all the influences are working together. There are certain traditional aspects of the genre I wanted to keep and help perpetuate in *Star Wars*."

> **"If the boy and girl walk off into the sunset hand-in-hand in the last scene, it adds $10 million to the box office."** GEORGE LUCAS



A Significant Souvenir

The Panavision camera that George Lucas used to shoot *Episode IV: A New Hope* was sold to a fan at a 2011 auction for $625,000.

> **"The best way to pursue happiness is to help other people. Nothing else will make you happier."** GEORGE LUCAS

night in the lives of a group of teens growing up in Modesto. The movie earned Oscar nominations for Best Picture, Best Screenplay and Best Director. That success gave Lucas the confidence to pursue what he hoped would be his next big project: a tribute to the adventure tales and space operas he'd loved as a kid.

The *Star Wars* storyline was something he and his business partner Gary Kurtz had been working on since 1971, starting as an idea for a children's show before morphing into a full-length feature script. Lucas' goal was to spark a younger audience's interest in space exploration while also providing a bit of a history lesson at the same time. The *Star Wars* script showcased allusions to modern events: the Galactic Empire was a stand-in for Nazi Germany and the Rebels' fight could be compared to the war happening in Vietnam.

Just like the heroes he wanted to feature in his film, however, Lucas was an underdog as he tried to interest movie studios in *Star Wars*. Two of the biggest, Universal and United Artists, shot him down. Finally, a reluctant 20th Century Fox paid him to work on the movie.

The budget was in the $10 million range, far less than the big blockbusters of the day, and Lucas tried to help by forgoing his director salary and settling for 40 percent of the profits and merchandising rights. Even after getting the movie ready to release for Memorial Day weekend 1977, few people besides Lucas had faith it would do well. Only about 40 theaters reportedly agreed to show it, until Fox made screening *Star Wars* a requirement if theaters wanted to get the much more anticipated *The Other Side of Midnight*.

Lucas' little space Western broke records during the summer of '77 and earned more than $300 million in that first run. He'd eventually see his dream of three sets of *Star Wars* trilogies get made (not to mention countless TV shows, books and costumes), although he sold his company, Lucasfilm, to Disney in 2012 for a reported $4 billion.

It wasn't easy, but the kid from Modesto who wanted to race cars clearly ended up in the driver's seat by imitating his heroes. As he once explained, "The secret is not to give up hope. It's very hard not to because if you're really doing something worthwhile, I think you will be pushed to the brink of hopelessness before you come through the other side."



That's My Mama!

Mark Hamill initially wanted Boba Fett to be revealed as Luke's mom as a way of topping the surprise that Darth Vader was his father.

"[This show] is going to blow your mind. I can talk it up all I want because I know it over-delivers. It way over-delivers."

ROBERT RODRIGUEZ, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

AN INCREDIBLE FETT

IT TOOK HIM AWHILE, BUT ONE OF *STAR WARS'* MOST LEGENDARY CHARACTERS IS FINALLY GETTING HIS OWN SHOW.

BY ROMAN TOMASHOFF



On the face of it, Boba Fett should have had the same place in the pantheon of *Star Wars* characters as, say, Max Rebo, who played the Red Ball Jet Organ for Jabba the Hutt in *Return of the Jedi*. After all, although Boba popped up in *A New Hope*, *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*, he had all of five lines of dialogue—one of which was simply "Ahhhh." Nonetheless, this feared bounty hunter with the really cool Mandalorian battle armor has become one of the franchise's most popular antiheroes. That's why he's been given his own series, *The Book of Boba Fett*, slated to launch on Disney+ Dec. 29, 2021.

It will pick up where the second season of *The Mandalorian* left off, with Boba (Temeura Morrison) and his sidekick, Fennec Shand (Ming-Na Wen), taking over Jabba's old throne room and, presumably, his crime syndicate as well. The badass bounty hunter managed to find some redemption—along with that famous armor, which had gone missing—by helping the Mandalorian (Pedro Pascal) save Baby Yoda. After a lifetime of crime, not to mention being presumed dead after falling into the Sarlacc Pit in *Return of the Jedi*, the clone of an equally dangerous dad, Jango Fett, seems ready for a new life.

How much do fans love Boba Fett? He was rated the third most popular *Star Wars* character ever in a 2018 *Rolling Stone* poll. Not bad for someone who was supposed to be the baddest of the bad in this universe. According to J.W. Rinzler's book *The Making of Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*, George Lucas has said that the bounty hunter "is really an early version of Darth Vader. He is also very

much like the Man with No Name from the Sergio Leone Westerns."

While *The Book of Boba Fett* will certainly move Boba's story ahead, it's also apparently going to look back at his checkered history.

"Well, we can't say too much, but we're going to see his past and where he's been since *The Empire Strikes Back*," explained Morrison in a recent Rotten Tomatoes interview. "Somebody pointed out he's been kind of stuck in this one place, and now's the time to actually go back in time and check out his journey and find out more about him."

Morrison appeared in four episodes in *The Mandalorian*'s second season, and with the reveal of his face after all these years behind that helmet, it made for some of the series' most memorable moments. Despite that, he was surprised when he was invited to come back to discuss the new show.

"It could have gone anywhere," he said. "It's a new time, and I think they're looking for fresh faces. I was just kind of quietly thrilled when I did do the meeting. I saw a couple of concept photos on the wall and there was a guy that looked very, very similar to me. And I kept saying, 'Is that me? Yeah, it must be me. Yeah, it *is* me!'"

Nobody on *The Book of Boba Fett* is revealing much about what lies ahead for the title character, and there's no official word on who else is in it. Wen apparently didn't even realize that was what she was signing on for. "We're so secretive about everything, right?" she told Digital Spy. "We don't call the shows the shows. The contracts are

Boba's Beginnings: A Time Line of the Legendary Bounty Hunter's History

1. *Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones*

The first meeting with Boba in the *Star Wars* canon is a tragic one, with him watching his bounty hunter father, Jango, get killed in battle by Jedi master Mace Windu.

2. *Clone Wars* S2.20: "Death Trap"

A grown Boba wants revenge for his father, so in this animated series, he goes after Windu but fails and has to escape with his own bounty hunting crew.

3. *Clone Wars* S2.21: "R2 Come Home"

Demonstrating the tenacity that fans will come to appreciate, Boba continues his quest to kill Windu by plotting a trap involving the ship *Endurance*.

4. *Clone Wars* S2.22: "Lethal Trackdown"

Nobody's perfect, not even a top-tier bounty hunter like Boba. His plan for revenge gets derailed and he's taken prisoner by Ahsoka Tano and Jedi master Plo Koon.

5. *Clone Wars* S4.15: "Deception"

Boba continues to be a thorn in the side of Jedis everywhere, returning to battle Obi-Wan. He also continues to lose these battles, narrowly escaping again.

6. *Clone Wars* S4.20: "Bounty"

Another fight, another eventual fail for Boba when he and his bounty-hunting team are betrayed and then captured by former Sith apprentice Asajj Ventress.

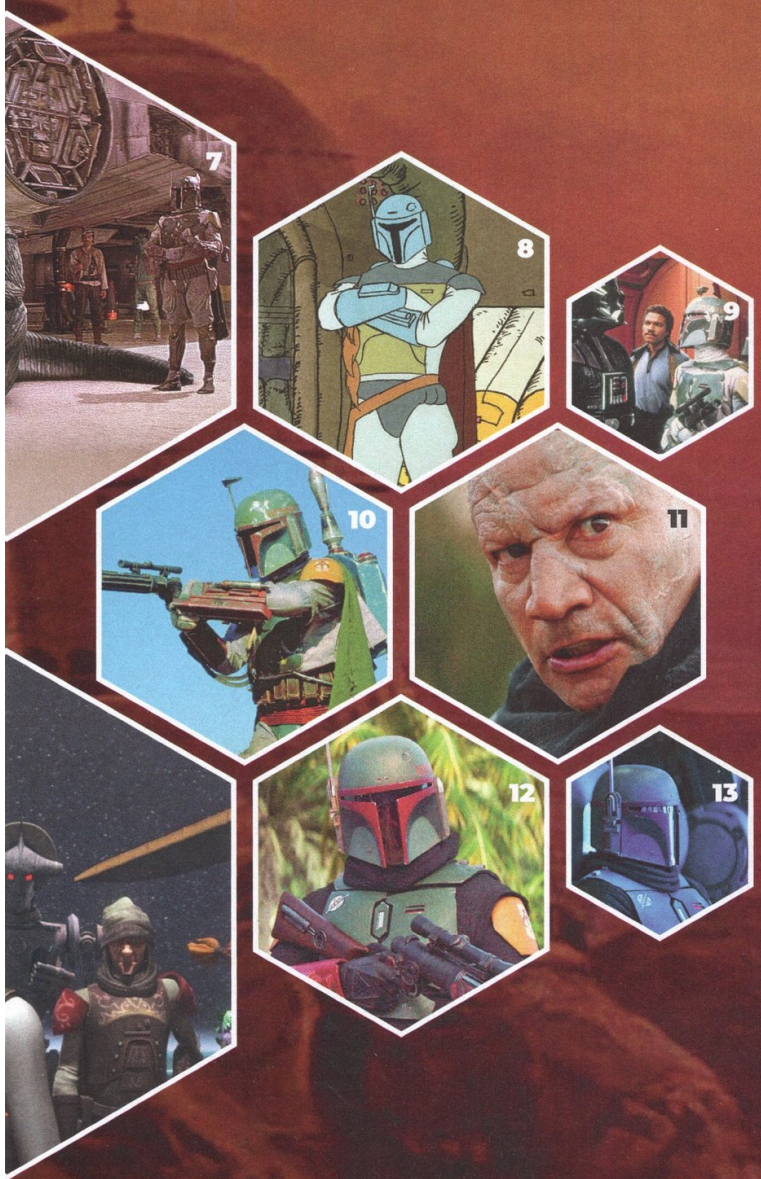


always under different names. The show is under different names. When I was told I was going to become a series regular, I just automatically assumed it was for *The Mandalorian* season three. And then when the scripts came out, it said 301, 302, 303, 304....

"So for two weeks, while I was working with Tem [Temuera Morrison] and Robert [Rodriguez, the director], I had no idea that I was actually shooting the spin-off."

Wen was willing to give up one little reveal: that fans will get a better look at Fennec Shand's younger self following a brief glimpse of her during Season 1 of the recent Disney+ series *The Bad Batch*. She explained that "it's kind of crazy. I feel like I have a novel, and I'm just flipping it back and forth to figure out the two timelines. It's exciting—any time you get more titbits of a character it really just fuels her actions, and it justifies who she is. So I'm looking forward to all that."

While nothing has been confirmed, there are rumors that the Mandalorian himself, Din Djarin, will cross paths with Fett on the new show. Since there are going to be flashbacks, it's possible there will even be appearances by Boba's old buddies, like Darth Vader. No matter whom he runs into, though, the bounty hunter is always ready for a fight. Which means he'd be happy to keep on battling after the first season is done. As a hopeful Morrison said in an interview with Express, "I think they'll have to consider some things.... The tree is still growing.... They'll probably want to test the waters first, there's been no talk about it."



7. *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*

It's only a quick glimpse, but Boba can be seen escorting Jabba the Hutt past the *Millennium Falcon* when Luke, Han, Chewbacca and Obi-Wan stop by Mos Eisley on Tatooine.

8. *The Star Wars Holiday Special*

Perhaps the only good thing to come out of this "special" is its animated short featuring Luke's initial encounter with a deceitful Boba.

9. *Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back*

Proving his serious bad guy cred, Boba helps Darth Vader by escorting a carbonite-frozen Han Solo back to Tatooine.

10. *Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi*

It looks like the end of Boba when, while working with Jabba, he seems to be eaten by the Sarlaac as Luke and company rescue Leia.

11. *The Mandalorian* S2.6: "The Tragedy"

A clearly not dead Boba returns to the canon, attempting to find his famous armor with the help of Din Djarin. Too bad he also finds the Empire to be alive and well.

12. *The Mandalorian* S2.7: "The Believer"

Ever the engaging antihero, Boba continues working with Mando to save Grogu from true baddy Moff Gideon.

13. *The Mandalorian* S2.8: "The Rescue"

Sure, Boba shows his good side by helping rescue Baby Yoda, but he also gets to be bad by taking Jabba's throne.

MONDO MANDA



Just when you thought you knew everything there was to know about the *Star Wars* universe, along came the Disney+ series *The Mandalorian*. The acclaimed show, which debuted in the fall of 2019 and returned for Season 2 in the fall of 2020, takes place during a mysterious and relatively unexplored time period in the long-running franchise—immediately following the events of *Episode VI: Return of the Jedi*—and follows a previously unknown character named Din Djarin.

He's a bounty hunter who lives by the warrior code of the mysterious Mandalorian people. Before the show, little was known about them other than a few references to them being a collective whose "old warrior ways are behind them." They got a few moments of their own in episodes of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, and a main character in the *Star Wars: Rebels* series was Sabine Wren, who was of Mandalorian descent. The *Mandalorian* series, however, has focused on the adventures of Din (Pedro Pascal) and his journey with a creature first known as The Child and later as Grogu (but to most fans, he'll always be Baby Yoda).

In October, on-set photos revealed filming for Season 3 is taking place at a new outdoor location that appears to be a maze of blue screens. The website comicbook.com suggested it might mean Mando will be visiting another Imperial facility, or it could be connected to Bo-Katan and the city of Mandalore. Of course, fans won't find out anything for sure until new episodes hit Disney+ in 2022.

Speaking with *People*, Giancarlo Esposito (Moff Gideon) would only say, "We're living in a universe that is

THE MYSTERIOUS, INTERGALACTIC INFIDEL HAS BECOME A FAN FAVORITE AND ANTIHERO FOR THE AGES THANKS TO A HIT SERIES—AND A FAMILIAR GREEN FACE. BY ROMAN TOMASHOFF

LORIAN



Where It All Began

The first mention of any Mandalorians dates back to issue 68 of Marvel Comics' first *Star Wars* series, which was published in 1982.

huge and [has] so much to explore... this show is going to start to lay the groundwork for the depth and breadth that's going to come in Season 3 and Season 4, where you're really gonna start to get answers."

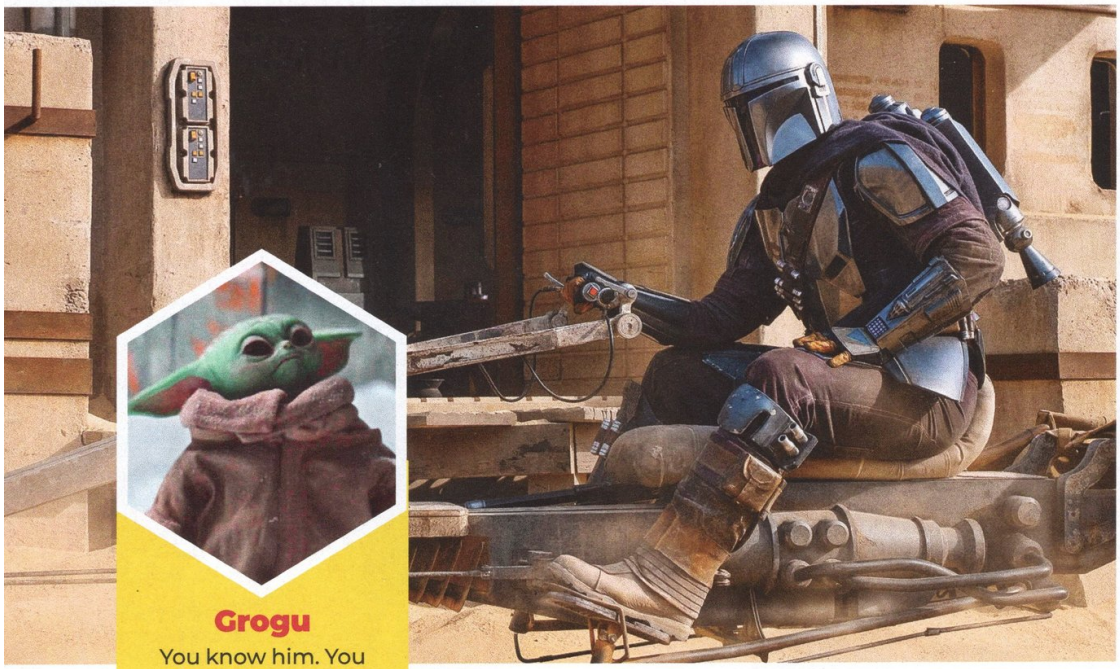
Talking to Indiewire, Pascal added, "I am told what's happening and what the plan is, but I can't share it. They are in the expansion of this world, where there are so many unexpected surprises and time lines that are going to be dealt with. If [Din] were to cross over into these worlds, it will be utilized in a way that isn't meant to be expected. I wouldn't want to spoil the surprise of whether or not characters from the show we already know are crossing over."

> "[The Mandalorian character] is a deconstructed version of Clint Eastwood in the Man with No Name [trilogy]."
>
> JON FAVREAU, CREATOR

There's a rumor that the third season of *The Mandalorian* will be the last, but Esposito also reportedly said "There's an end planned.... I've also heard it'll just morph into a 'new' show that sticks with the characters/time period but under a new name." The final fate remains in a TV galaxy far, far away, but for Season 3, here's what may be up with the most intriguing characters (minus Ahsoka Tano and Boba Fett, who are jetting off into their own series).

Who Will Come Back?

Although mystery shrouds the coming third season of *The Mandalorian* like the thick clouds surrounding the planet Kamino, these characters from Season 2 could very well be key players when new episodes finally arrive on Disney+.



Grogu

You know him. You love him. You just aren't sure what to call him. The Child? Baby Yoda? Grogu? Critter That Makes Your Kids Smile Whenever They See Him? There are two sure things when it comes to Din Djarin's little green companion: He has to be a major player in the new season since Luke Skywalker flew all the way through the galaxy to save him and his extraordinary powers. And he's too damn cute to leave behind.

Din Djarin

It sounds like this third go-around for the bounty hunter with an armored heart of gold will be a familiar one. Brendan Wayne, the actor who often portrays Din when he's in his metal suit, told The Direct, "I think we've introduced the world in which Mando exists now. Not that there aren't going to be new things...I think there will be a lot less introductions and a lot more going back toward the first season of delving deeper into the character."



Bo-Katan Kryze

This fierce fighter and fellow Mandalorian has her own agenda to protect her people, but she was right alongside Mando and Grogu when it counted at the end of Season 2, battling Moff Gideon. She wanted to take back the legendary Darksaber from him, but Din won it in combat. "The way that Lucasfilm left me in Season 2, one of the roads that could be gone down...would be the unfinished business," Katee Sackhoff, who plays the character told *Film*.

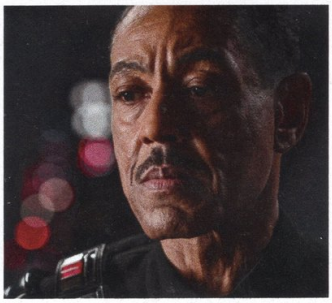
Cara Dune

She spent much of the first two seasons providing the additional muscle the Mandalorian needed to get out of scrapes, but don't look for her to return any time soon to this or any other *Star Wars* universe. After several controversial social media posts about topics such as COVID and the 2020 presidential election by the actress who plays Cara, former Mixed Martial Artists fighter Gina Carano, Disney cut ties with her calling those posts "abhorrent and unacceptable."



Luke Skywalker

The image of a de-aged Mark Hamill sabre-slashing his way through Dark Troopers to save Mando and Grogu at the end of Season 2 was shocking even for Hamill (who has said he never expected to play the part again). It was also the perfect way to tie the series back into the overall *Star Wars* legacy. As much fun as it would be to have the Jedi to end all Jedis back in Season 3, though, we're probably more likely to see a Jar Jar Binks series than we are to see more Luke.



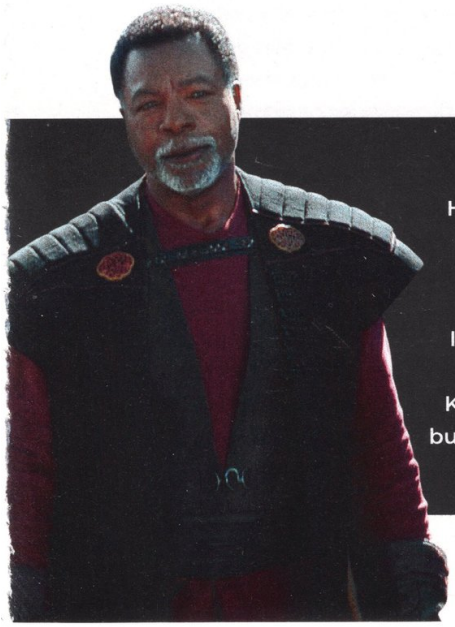
Moff Gideon

Moff tried to kill himself after the Mandalorian (literally) deflected his attempt to shoot Grogu, but the Imperial warlord was stopped from committing suicide by Team Mando. This is probably a decision that Din is going to regret, because it's unlikely you can ever keep a remnant of the evil Empire down for long. If there's no Darth or Emperor, then there must be a Moff to complicate life in the universe.

Koska Reeves

It's no surprise that, as Bo-Katan's sidekick, this intense Mandalorian warrior has a chip the size of Alderaan on her shoulder. Still, in the Season 2 climax, she did risk her life in order to save Grogu. That is proof that she has got some compassion, which may balance out Bo-Katan's anger when the pair inevitably cross Din's path again at some point in Season 3.





Greef Karga

His background is sketchy. His demeanor is crotchety. His motives are questionable. Still, the bounty hunter turned magistrate always seems to have Din's back. Last seen helping Mando and Cara Dune destroy an Imperial base and then slyly telling the Rebel Alliance he'll pass along any news he hears about that attack, Karga seems due to reconnect with his bounty hunter buddy in order to strike a new blow against the Empire.



Migs Mayfeld

The first time Mando worked with this mercenary and onetime Imperial sharpshooter, Mayfeld tried to betray him. The second time, though, found Din using Mayfeld's fighting skills and Imperial knowledge to help him track down Moff Gideon's ship. Since he proved so valuable on that mission, Mando and Cara let him go free. Which means he has to return in Season 3, first because Mando can always use a sharpshooter, but also because Mayfeld (played by Boston comedian Bill Burr) is the only guy in space who sounds like he should be selling Sam Adams beer at Fenway Park.

Oh, Baby!

His past is still mostly a mystery, but this junior-sized Jedi has quickly become an intergalactic sensation.



A Pricey Puppet

A puppet was used to shoot the close-up images of The Child. The price tag for this delightful doll was reportedly $5 million!

From the moment The Child appeared at the end of the first episode of *The Mandalorian*, we all knew better. The adorable alien with a face that launched 1,000 memes was Baby Yoda. OK, so maybe this green, big-eared infant wasn't literally the Jedi master as a newborn. Still, he clearly was a member of Yoda's never-named species, and there is a better-than-average chance that the two critters share some genes.

Is there a previously unknown Mrs. Yoda who gave birth to The Child (who, fans learned in Season 2's "Chapter 13: The Jedi," is actually named Grogu)?

Nobody knows for sure, but in *Episode I: The Phantom Menace*, a female member of Yoda's species (who went by the name of Yaddle) sat in as a member of the Jedi Council. Her background remains a mystery, and according to the novel *Jedi Quest: Shadow Trap*, she later perished during a battle. That book's story line falls somewhere between *Phantom Menace* and *Attack of the Clones*, which doesn't rule out a fan theory: Yaddle and Yoda made a baby and that's the wee one the Mandalorian has deeply bonded with ever since he ended up protecting the tiny Grogu. This hypothesis could mean that the cuddly critter known forever in our hearts as Baby Yoda is the last of its kind. No similar aliens have shown up in other films, series or books, so it's possible that Yoda and Yaddle decided to get busy to ensure the survival of their species.

That would explain a lot about Grogu's heritage and connection with the Force. Plus, this fits with the baby's age, since the tiny creature is said to be around 50. We don't know much about his birth, but there's some information about how the



Executive producer Dave Filoni's drawing inspired Baby Yoda's look.



Grogu was called "the future of Hollywood" by *The Hollywood Reporter*.



During initial filming, some actors just referred to Grogu as "the Being."

"We know who he is based on his behavior.... We don't know a lot about where he comes from or his species." JON FAVREAU

idea for a Baby Yoda came about. You can credit *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* executive producer Dave Filoni. "I had thought, even back on *The Clone Wars*, 'I bet young Yoda is something that would come up at one point,'" he explained to *Vanity Fair*, adding that he and George Lucas gave serious thought a decade ago to creating a "very, very young Yoda," but "there was always a hesitation around it."

The Mandalorian's executive producer, Jon Favreau, also explained to *Vanity Fair* that he and his team worried about the character then known simply as The Child becoming too cute, so they wanted to "ugly up all the different little features." This led to his sharp teeth, along with his tendency to do "gross" things like sticking a whole frog in his mouth. While the show has gone on to be a huge success, that plan to tone down the cuteness failed miserably since viewers (and merchandisers) around the globe fell in love with the junior Jedi. From pajamas to dolls to jewelry to hand sanitizers, The Child/Baby Yoda/Grogu has now become a presence in everyday life.

"Fans feel a real connection with The Child toys, just like the connection they have to the character in *The Mandalorian*," Denise Wong, senior design manager for product design for toy maker Mattel, told *USA Today* in late 2020.

It's safe to say everyone feels much like Pedro Pascal, the actor who plays the Mandalorian, did the very first time he saw the Baby Yoda character drawn on one of the early storyboards for the show: "Literally, my eyes following left to right, up and down, and, *boom*, Baby Yoda close to the end of the first episode. That was when I was like, 'Oh, yep, that's a winner.'"



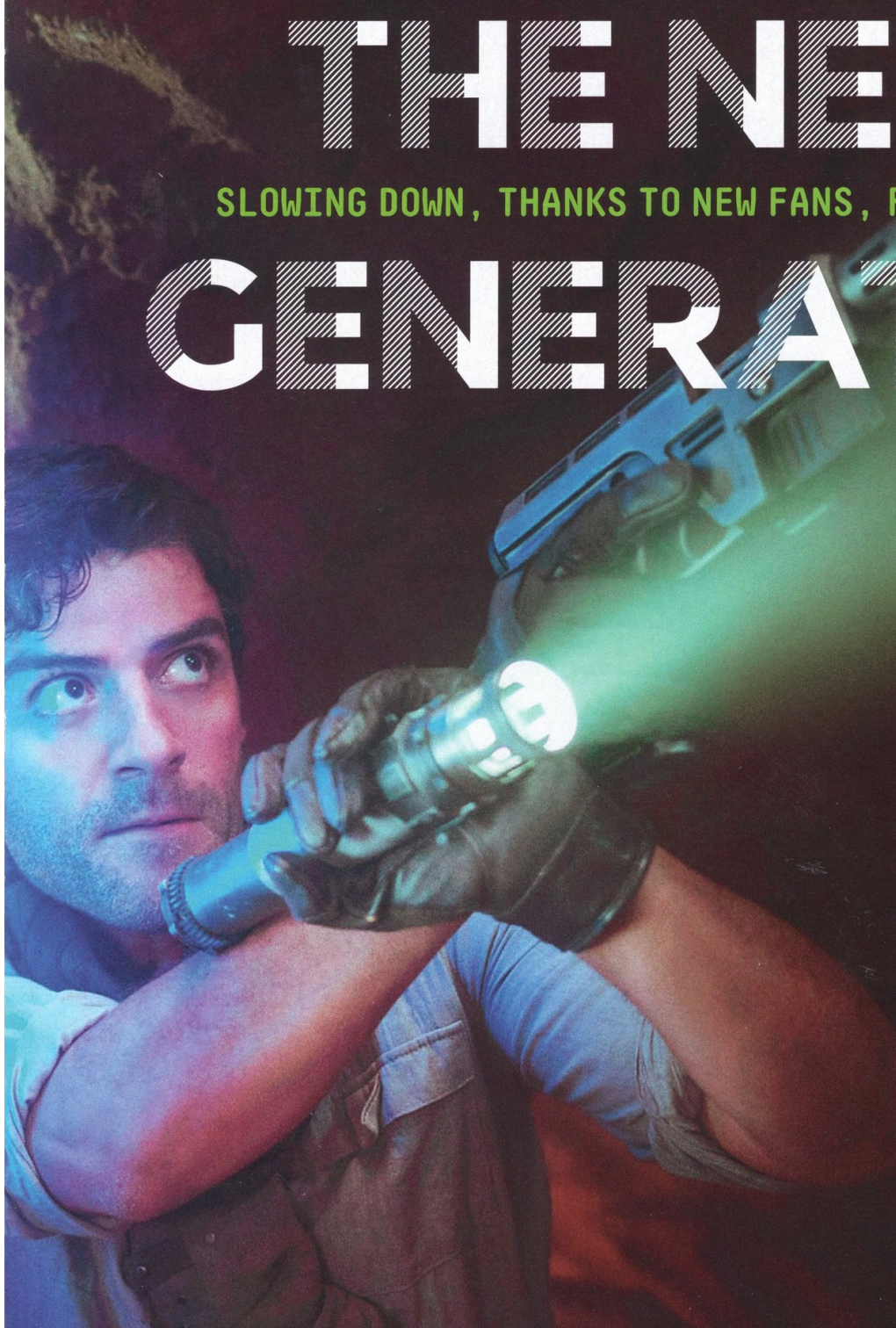
Getting It Right

The *Rise of Skywalker* cast had to wait for a script since "I've never rewritten a film as much as this one," says co-writer Chris Terrio.

STAR WARS:

FIVE DECADES IN, THIS FAMOUS FRANCHISE ISN'T SLOWING DOWN, THANKS TO NEW FANS, FILMS AND SHOWS.

THE NEXT GENERATION



The entirety of *Star Wars* lore isn't just about the ways of Jedi warriors. In a way, the franchise itself is a Jedi warrior. It came from humble beginnings. It became a powerful force throughout the galaxy. And just when its time seemed to be at an end, its spirit returned more powerful than before. This thing that began as an unheralded, unwanted sci-fi film in the spring of 1977 has grown into an entertainment monolith that ranks as the second-highest-grossing film series in history. (Only the Marvel movies rank higher.) A 2019 survey found that roughly 60 percent of all Americans between the ages of 30 and 64 considered themselves to be *Star Wars* fans, which means that enthusiasm for Wookies and droids and lightsabers is still going strong. Because of this, the creative forces behind all things *Star Wars* are continuing to give fans what they want. With that in mind, here's a look at what's new and what's next for Luke lovers and Darth devotees.

Television Expanding the Empire

Even George Lucas has admitted *Star Wars* got off to a slow start on the television front due to his first TV endeavor, the much-maligned *Star Wars Holiday Special*. Still, things have turned around since that 1978 show aired and then drifted onto bootleg VHS tapes everywhere. Starting with series like *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* and *Star Wars: Rebels* and continuing on through the current hit *The Mandalorian*, the franchise is soaring on the small screen. Here's a look at what's coming to a TV near you. —*Roman Tomashoff*



The Bad Batch

"*Clone Wars* was the windup; this is knocking it out of the park."

That's how Dee Bradley Baker describes the most recent *Star Wars* spin-off to hit television, the 2021 Disney+ animated series *The Bad Batch*. And he should know, considering he's been the voice for all of the clones in both shows. The characters in *Bad Batch* were hatched in the final season of *Clone Wars*, which ended in 2020, and the adventures of this quirky gang stand out not only because of the series' intense action sequences but also thanks to their familial chemistry. "I love the dynamic between this weird, misfit group of clones," says Jennifer Corbett, *Batch*'s head writer and executive producer. "I remember immediately finishing the animatic and [saying], 'I love these guys. I get it. I get who they are. I get where they're going because it is this family unit. They're their own family." She isn't the only one who gets it. *The Bad Batch* was an instant fan favorite, earning a quick order for a second season.

> **"I think we have tried to not just portray [the clones] as being the bad guys. They're more the pawns of the bad guys, and how unfortunate that is."**
>
> JENNIFER CORBETT, HEAD WRITER



Vader Vision

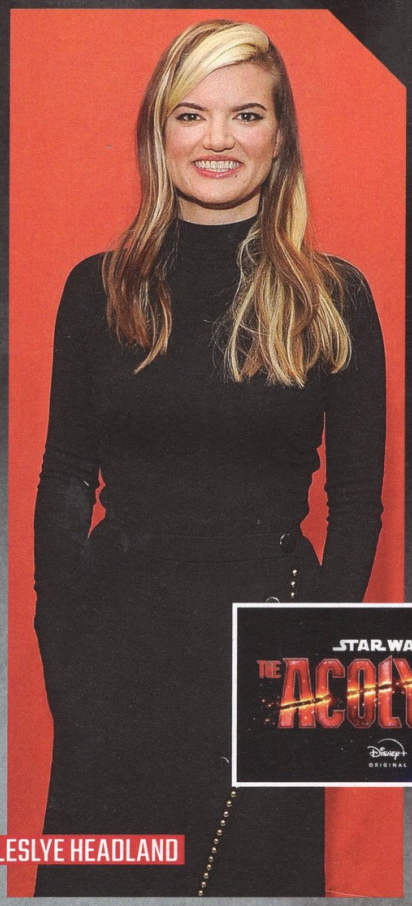
Hayden Christensen (left, with Ewan McGregor) has apparently been spotted on the set of the new series sporting Darth Vader's classic black helmet and cape.

Obi-Wan Kenobi

With *The Book of Boba Fett* hitting Disney+ in December 2021, *Star Wars* fans are already wondering what's coming after that. It looks like the honor will go to a six-episode series that follows the life and times of Obi-Wan Kenobi. Reportedly episodes will drop in early 2022.

Getting information on the show's plot is kind of like trying to shave a Wookie—extremely difficult. However, here's what we do know so far. It will star Ewan McGregor, who played Obi-Wan in *Episodes I* through *III*. It will likely be set after the events of the third film, *Revenge of the Sith*. Hayden Christensen will reprise his role as Anakin Skywalker/Darth Vader. Other announced cast members include Moses Ingram, Joel Edgerton, Bonnie Piesse, Kumail Nanjiani, Indira Varma, Rupert Friend, O'Shea Jackson Jr., Sung Kang, Simone Kessell and Benny Safdie. Edgerton and Piesse will be reprising their roles as Luke Skywalker's aunt and uncle, Beru and Owen Lars, which means the majority of the show will probably be set on Tatooine, where Obi-Wan is living in exile.

So will we be seeing a classically clad Kenobi in the series? "There may or may not be cloaks," McGregor teased in a *CBS Sunday Morning* interview in early 2021, as he was shooting the series. "I'm not saying anything! But to come back to play him again, Obi-Wan Kenobi, has been absolutely brilliant. I'm really enjoying it."



The Acolyte

This may be the most intriguing of all the upcoming Disney+ *Star Wars* series since it sounds kind of, well, un–*Star Wars*–like. It's being billed as a "mystery thriller" and is to be set in a previously unexplored corner of the franchise's well-established universe: the High Republic era, which was the golden age for the Jedi. (Think a couple centuries before a young Luke saved Leia and the universe.) It's being overseen by Leslye Headland, who is a self-professed *Star Wars* fan but is best known for the quirky Netflix drama *Russian Doll*. In an interview with Collider, she said the yet-to-be-scheduled show will be "in a pocket of the universe and a pocket of the time line that we don't know much about. I kind of see, if *Star Wars* is a religion, I like to think of my show as a tent revival. You can come over if you want to. We're going to be talking about some cool stuff."

In addition, Headland has promised that *The Acolyte* will incorporate plenty of "martial arts action." One of her other primary goals is to feature a woman as one of the main protagonists because she wants *The Acolyte* to be "female centric." Another is to expand the very idea of what a *Star Wars* story can be, even telling StarWars.com that her writers room is filled with people who not only have different backgrounds and writing styles but varying levels of knowledge about the franchise. Said Headland, "I literally had one writer that was like, 'I have never seen any of them. I've never seen any *Star Wars* media.' And she's texting me before we started the room, she's like, 'Luke and Leia are brother and sister, what the...?'" Which means this series will likely be full of surprises.

License to Thrill

This prequel will be set five years before the events of the film *Rogue One* and has been officially described as a "rousing spy thriller."

Andor

There's plenty of reliable expectation that this continuation of the story of Cassian Andor (Diego Luna), the heroic survivor of the calamitous finale of the 2016 film *Rogue One*, will arrive on Disney+ sometime between the end of *The Book of Boba Fett* and the launch of Season 3 of *The Mandalorian* in 2022. Allegedly a prequel to the events of *Rogue One*, the Disney+ show will be a deep, 12-installment look at the story behind the rebellion against the Empire. It was filmed in England through much of 2021, so it *should* be ready to go in 2022. According to an excited Luna, "the format of a series is amazing because we have a lot of time to explore all [the] layers" of both Andor and what his battle against the Empire was all about.



Someone tweeted me and fan-cast me. I retweeted back and I was like, "Absolutely, yes please" and "#Ahsoka-Lives...That kind of started a whole thing." ROSARIO DAWSON

By Any Other Name

Originally, Ahsoka was apparently going to be a character named Ashla, who had never served as an apprentice to Anakin Skywalker.

Ahsoka

It flew by with the speed of the *Millennium Falcon*, but Rosario Dawson's guest role as Jedi Ahsoka Tano in Chapter 13 of *The Mandalorian* still got plenty of attention from fans of the character that had never before appeared in a live-action *Star Wars* production. After years of Ahsoka popping up in animated series like *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* and *Star Wars: Rebels*, Disney+ was impressed enough by Dawson's take on Anakin Skywalker's former Padawan (apprentice) to announce a full series (release date TBD) with her. As is the case with most *Star Wars* projects, there's no word on when the show will appear, but after Ahsoka managed to survive her one episode of *The Mandalorian*, Dawson is eager to show what this female hero can do. "I'm just really glad that she lived, that we've been able to continue growing with her," she said in a late 2020 interview with StarWars.com. "So many of the wonderful, awesome Jedi that we love and have gotten their stories told are male, and you saw them older.... I think she represents something stronger than that, about will and determination and audacity and tenacity. She really has pushed herself and evolved in a way that...is not easy to find in other spaces."

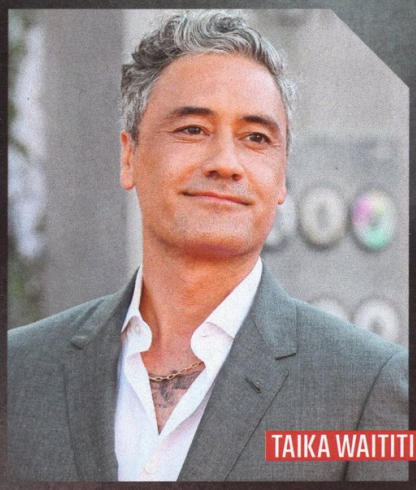
A Star Wars TV MVP?

You may not realize you know Hondo Ohnaka, but this pirate/smuggler/all-around scoundrel has already shown up in a couple hit TV series: *Star Wars: Rebels* and *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*. He's also the "guide" on the *Millennium Falcon* rides at Disneyland and Walt Disney World. Soon, everyone may know him if the popular rumor that he's in Season 3 of *The Mandalorian* is true.



Movies A New Hope

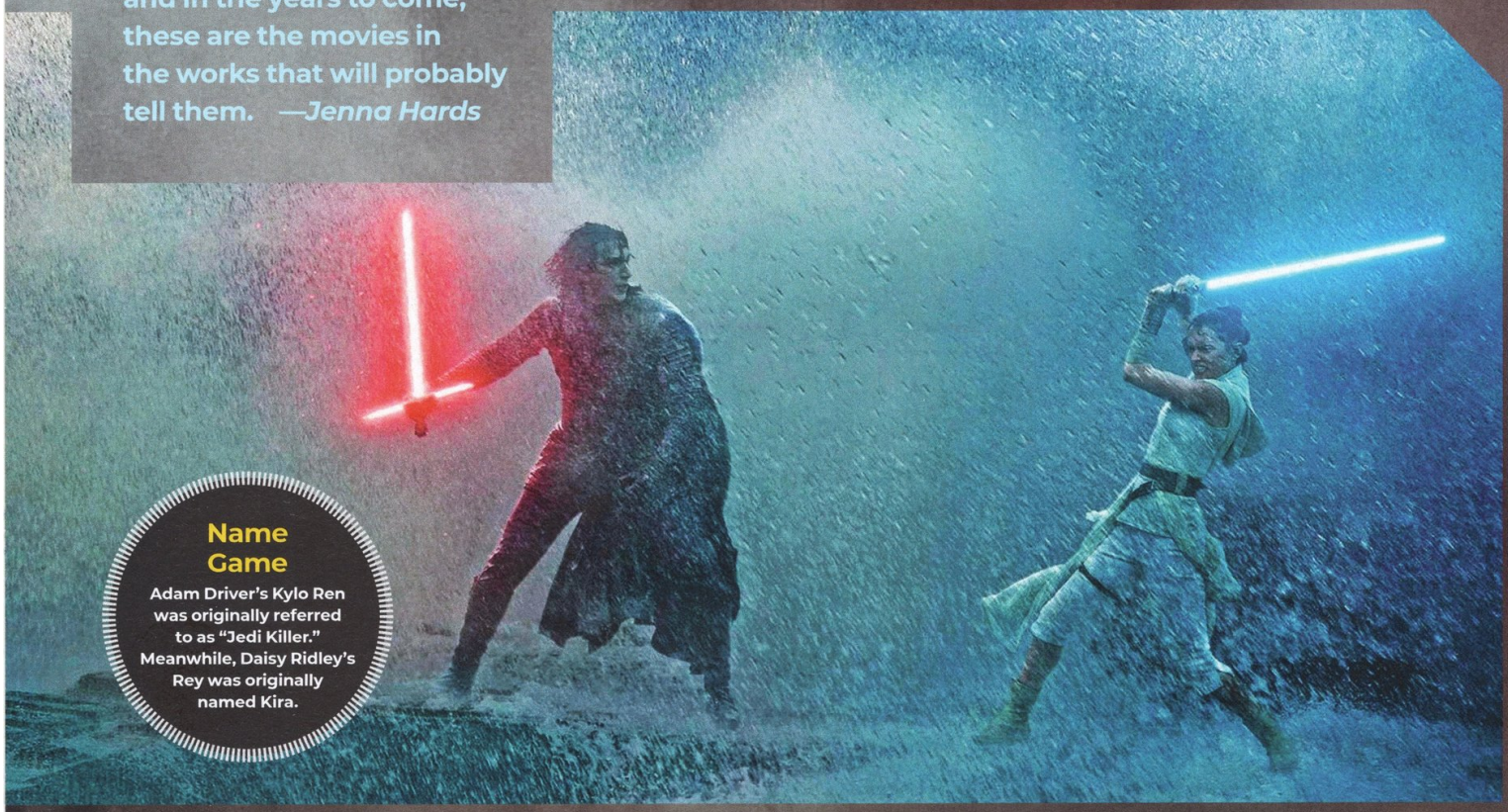
It certainly seemed like the end. In 2019's *Episode IX: The Rise of Skywalker*, the new conquering hero, Rey, returns to the place where our *Star Wars* journey began—Luke Skywalker's home planet of Tatooine—to bury Luke's and Leia's lightsabers in the sand. But when a passerby asks for her last name, Rey responds, "Skywalker." In that last scene, it becomes clear: Even after 11 live-action feature films, the *Star Wars* cinematic universe is far from finished. There are plenty of stories left to tell, and in the years to come, these are the movies in the works that will probably tell them. —*Jenna Hards*



TAIKA WAITITI

Taika Waititi Project

On *Star Wars* Day 2020, Disney confirmed that writer/director Taika Waititi, who is definitely no stranger to *Star Wars* projects (he directed the first season finale of *The Mandalorian* and voiced the show's droid IG-11 as well), is on board to create a new installment in the franchise. The man behind movies like *Thor: Ragnarok* and the Oscar-nominated *Jojo Rabbit* is set to both direct and co-write, along with Krysty Wilson-Cairns, but beyond that, there's no release date or plot synopsis. One thing that's known, however, is how nervous Waititi will be when he finally steps behind the camera. As rumors swirled before the official announcement that he would tackle a *Star Wars* project, he told *Variety* that he would only do it "if it was right. I would want to do any kind of movie if it made sense, and if it felt not like career suicide." In August 2021, Waititi told Wired.com that "we've got a story. I'm really



Name Game

Adam Driver's Kylo Ren was originally referred to as "Jedi Killer." Meanwhile, Daisy Ridley's Rey was originally named Kira.



Rian Johnson has said naysayers of his darker version of Luke in *Last Jedi* treat Skywalker "not as a true mythic hero...but as a video game character."

excited by it because it feels very me." He's known for his comedic approach to movies, something that most *Star Wars* films don't have a reputation for. Fans shouldn't worry that Waititi will turn the franchise into a sitcom, though. "I tend to go down that little sincerity alleyway in my films," he once said to IGN. "I like to fool the viewer into thinking, 'Ha! It's this!' and then them going, 'Damn it, you made me feel something!'"

Rian Johnson Project

Rian Johnson, the director of *Episode VIII: The Last Jedi*, may not be done with *Star Wars* yet. Even before that movie came out, Disney and Lucasfilm announced that he was going to work on a new trilogy of films that would showcase "new characters from a corner of the galaxy that *Star Wars* lore has never before explored." Fans have speculated that his story might involve anything from the Force-sensitive boy who showed up in *The Rise of Skywalker* to a child whom Rey gives birth to. All that's certain is that Johnson wants to drift away from following the Skywalker family, while possibly bringing back other familiar faces from the franchise. "This would be one story told over three movies," Johnson has said of his trilogy pitch. "Go to new places, meet new folks...the sky's the limit." There are still no dates or time lines attached to this undertaking, but Johnson has continued to confirm it's all still in the works.



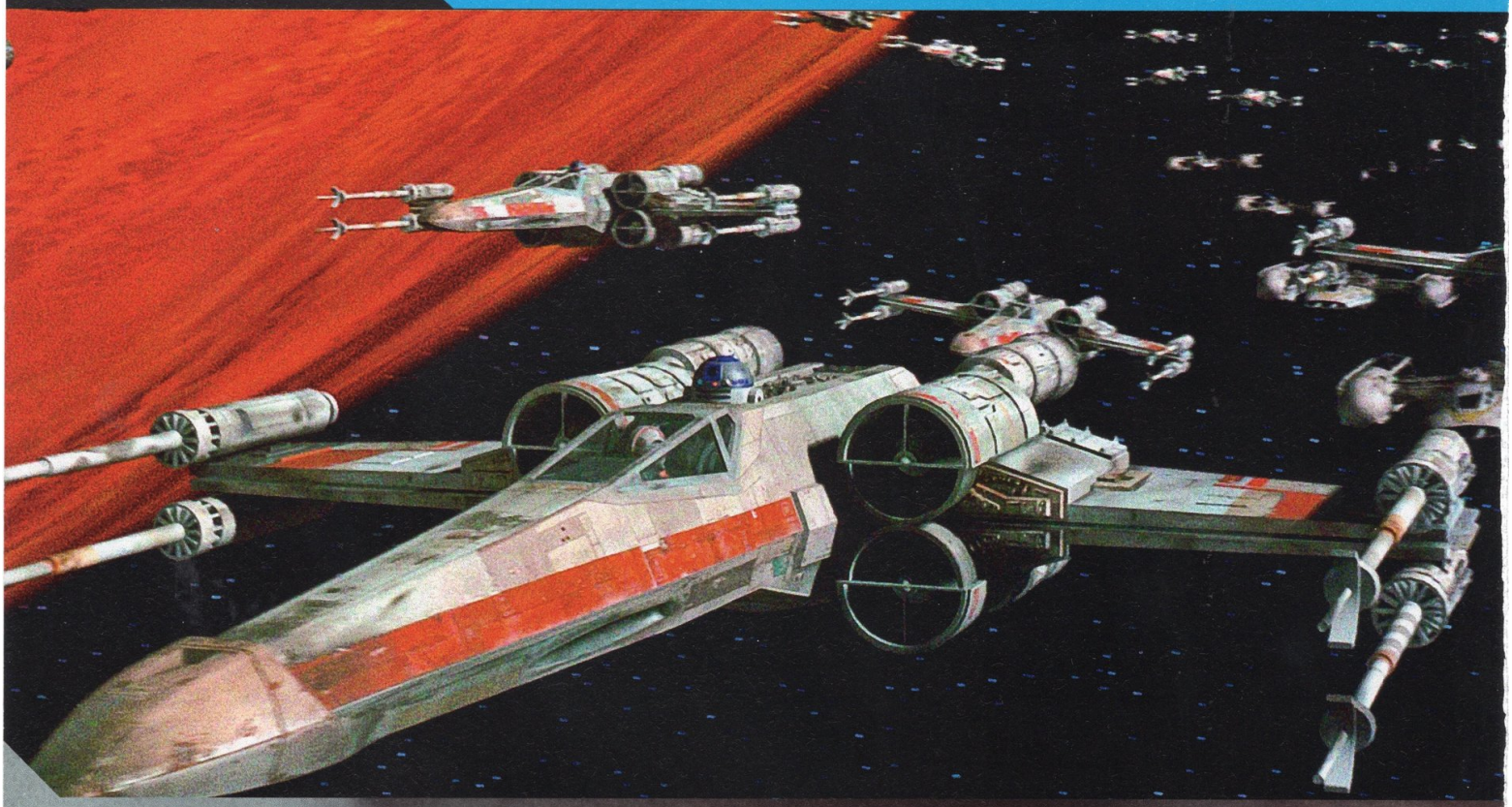
KEVIN FEIGE



KATHLEEN KENNEDY

Kevin Feige Project

Having already conquered the galaxy with the most popular franchise in film history, Marvel Studios president and chief creative officer Kevin Feige is turning his attention to the second most popular franchise with a *Star Wars*–related project. He's joining forces with Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy to create new cinematic content, and although little is known about these projects, initial reports indicate that Feige has already been working on ideas. According to Alan Horn, Walt Disney Studios co-chairman and chief creative officer, "With the close of the Skywalker Saga, Kathy [Kennedy] is pursuing a new era in *Star Wars* storytelling, and knowing



what a diehard fan Kevin is, it made sense for these two extraordinary producers to work on a *Star Wars* film together." *The Hollywood Reporter* revealed that Feige has also spoken to "a major actor" about a role in this developing project, and it seems to have a writer as well: Michael Waldron, who wrote *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* and served as head writer and executive producer on the Disney+ series *Loki*.

Rogue Squadron

As the daughter of a U.S. Air Force fighter pilot, director Patty Jenkins always knew she wanted to make "the greatest fighter pilot movie of all time" to pay tribute to her dad. She just never realized it would involve ships like X-wings or be set in the era of the New Republic. Nonetheless, the woman behind the two recent *Wonder Woman* movies will be the first female to helm a *Star Wars* film, thanks to *Rogue Squadron*, which seems on track to be the next feature film in the franchise. It seems likely that it will draw heavily from the Star Wars: Rogue Squadron video game series and the *Star Wars: X-wing* book series by Michael Stackpole. It also may have little or nothing to do with the previous nine *Star Wars* films.

Jenkins told the Associated Press in mid-2021 that the games and books have "an incredible history that's really important to honor. And yet, it must be brought to a new age, because we have to tell a new story with it and so you're trying to blend the best of everything and make it the great fighter-pilot movie, which I've always wanted to make, as well. It's a big brew of things that you're trying to put together and still try to keep a simple story."

Matthew Robinson, whose previous credits include *Love and Monsters* and *The Invention of Lying*, has come on board to write the script. While finding details about the plot is as tough as figuring out whether Han or Greedo shot first, Jenkins told *The Hollywood Reporter* in mid-2021



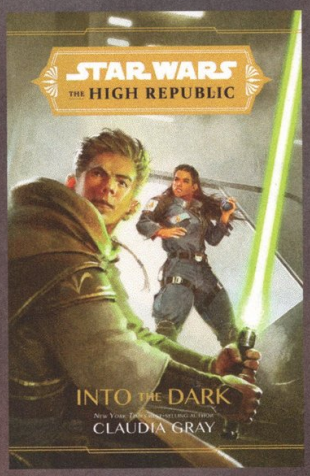
PATTY JENKINS

that she'd already been on the case for six months before the film was announced in December 2020. So something is cooking. Says Jenkins, "I'm so excited about the story and excited that we're the next chapter of *Star Wars*, which is such a responsibility and such an opportunity to really start some new things." One thing seems certain: The release date for *Rogue Squadron* is set for December 22, 2023.

Books / Podcasts
Reaching Fans Old and New

Not all the great *Star Wars* stories are happening on screens big or small. Some are being told with words, not images.

Does your inner *Star Wars* nerd need more stories to keep you entertained? Look no further than the book series *Star Wars: The High Republic*, which launched in 2021 and tells its tales via books, audio and comics. The first three novels (*Light of the Jedi*, *Into the Dark* and *A Test of Courage*) and two comic books (*The High Republic Adventures* and *The High Republic*) are written with different audiences in mind. *Light* is for adults, while *Dark* is a young-adult book, and *Courage* is geared toward middle schoolers. Lucasfilm had promised when the *High Republic* series was announced that the material "will not overlap any of the filmed features or series currently planned, giving creators and partners a vast amount of room to tell *Star Wars* stories with new adventures and original characters."



Set two centuries before the events of *Episode I: The Phantom Menace*, the entire *High Republic* series takes place during a time when the Jedi Order peacekeepers and the Sith weren't the top worry they'd eventually become. Despite the original plan that the books would not connect to any potential new films, rumor has it that upcoming Disney+ series might be set in the waning days of the High Republic era. Until then, though, the writers of these books are confident their tomes will provide quality reading for longtime *Star Wars* fans and novices alike.

"There's a whole group of people, and especially young people, who are going to find out about *Star Wars* through these books and comics," Daniel José Older, author of the comic book series *Star Wars: The High Republic Adventures*, told Space.com. "And they can because we've really designed them to be accessible to folks who don't know a single thing about *Star Wars* and have all the Skywalker saga memorized like we do."

He also promises readers will find a much more hopeful universe than what has generally been depicted on screen. "We wanted to see the Jedi in the Republic at a point in time when they are comfortable, because it's always interesting to set these people up and then knock them down and see how they cope. The Jedi have been at their height for hundreds of years and the Republic is pushing out in every direction. Then they come up against an unstoppable force that absolutely knocks them down and changes their view of everything."

—Brittley Gaan

Listen Up!

People have been talking about *Star Wars* for 40-plus years now, so it's no surprise there are plenty of podcasts about the franchise. Here are some great ones that will leave listeners as happy as a Jawa in an Empire junkyard:

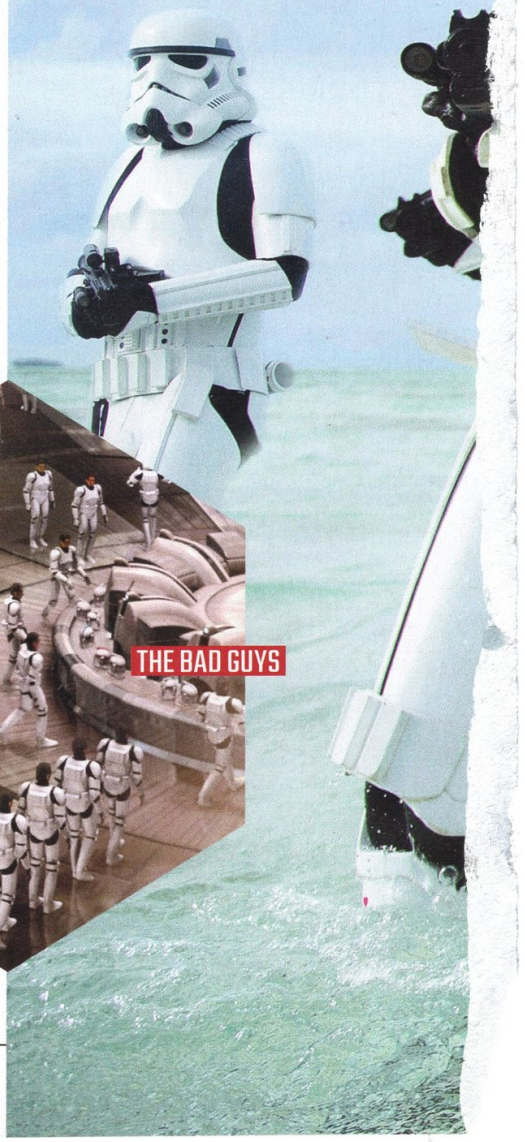
Rebel Force Radio
Hosts Jason Swank and Jimmy Mac have all the *Star Wars* knowledge fans will ever need! Whether it's hearing them opine on the franchise's movies and shows or interview celebrities, Rebel Force Radio is a great listen for fans new and old.

Cantina Cast
Cantina Cast is the perfect pod for the long lineage of stories and characters in the *Star Wars* canon. The two hosts, Albert and Jonesy, dissect in detail everything under Tatooine's two suns. Whether it's analyzing episodes of series like *The Bad Batch* or debating if the light or dark side of the Force is actually stronger, Cantina Cast keeps things as entertaining as the movies.

Star Wars: Beyond the Films
This excellent podcast is more about what happens off-screen in the *Star Wars* universe, with hosts Mark Hurliman and Nathan P. Butler taking listeners through what's up in the world of books and comic books rather than dwelling on movies and shows.

HOW TO SPEAK STAR WARS

Taken by Storm
The stormtroopers are named after a group of fierce German soldiers from World War I known as "sturmtruppen."



Jumping into the world of *Star Wars* is kind of like taking your first vacation to the Far East. There are all sorts of unusual, yet intriguing sites to take in. The locals look and dress a little differently than they do back home. And, perhaps most significantly, it's hard to understand exactly what everyone is talking about. Just like that trip to a strange and exotic land, however, once you get a handle on this new language, the world opens up to you in ways you'd never anticipated. It can be a challenge learning how to speak fluent *Star Wars*, though. So, to help you distinguish the Resistance from the Rebel Alliance and let you avoid the embarrassment of calling a Jawa an Ewok (they hate that!), let this glossary be your guide through the wild world of *Star Wars* words.

ALDERAAN A mountainous planet that was home to Leia Organa and her family. Emphasis on the "was," since it became the initial target of the first Death Star in *Episode IV: A New Hope*.

CLONE TROOPERS ▶ Created to be far superior to battle droids, they became the centerpiece of the Republic's army in its ongoing war against the Confederacy of Independent Systems.

THE BAD GUYS

A GUIDE TO SOME OF THE FRANCHISE'S MOST IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGY.

BY CRAIG TOMASHOFF

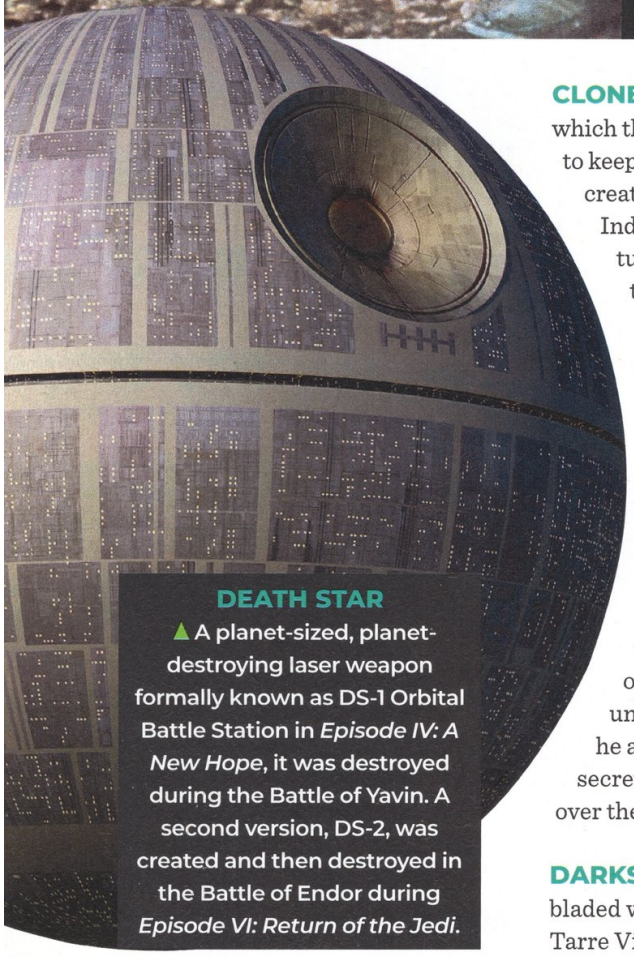


STORMTROOPERS
◀ Frontline troops fanatically devoted to the Galactic Empire, easily identified by their white armor and E-11 blasters.



DAGOBAH
◀ A swamp-like planet that became home to Yoda, and where he trained Luke Skywalker in the ways of the Jedi during *Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back.*





DEATH STAR
▲ A planet-sized, planet-destroying laser weapon formally known as DS-1 Orbital Battle Station in *Episode IV: A New Hope*, it was destroyed during the Battle of Yavin. A second version, DS-2, was created and then destroyed in the Battle of Endor during *Episode VI: Return of the Jedi.*

CLONE WARS A three-year battle which the Galactic Republic fought to keep planets from seceding and creating the Confederacy of Independent Systems, and which turned out to be just a ruse that set the stage for the eventual formation of the Galactic Empire.

CONFEDERACY OF INDEPENDENT SYSTEMS Also referred to as the Separatist State or Separatist Alliance. This was a collection of star systems that operated under the leadership of Sith Lord Count Dooku, until it became clear that he and Darth Sidious were secretly using the CIS to take over the galaxy.

DARKSABER An ancient black-bladed weapon originally created by Tarre Viszla, the first Mandalorian Jedi. It remains to many a significant symbol of power in Mandalorian culture.

DROID Short for "android," robotic creations that often possess some degree of artificial intelligence, so they are able to move and function on their own. They are regularly used for jobs considered too dangerous or too dull for humans.

THE EMPIRE also called "the Galactic Empire," an autocratic government established by Supreme Chancellor-turned-Emperor Palpatine following the Clone Wars, when he eliminated all opposition by purging the Jedi Order.

EWOKS Fuzzy, meter-tall critters from the forest planet Endor, who are skilled in the use of primitive weapons and provided invaluable help to the Rebel Alliance during the Battle of Endor in *Episode VI: Return of the Jedi.*



HYPERSPACE
◀ A space-time dimension that allows faster intergalactic travel, achieved when a craft surpasses the speed of light.

GALACTIC REPUBLIC A democratically run governmental body comprised of thousands of systems and worlds across the galaxy, it ruled for 1,000 years until ultimately being destroyed from within by Chancellor Palpatine.

THE JEDI ORDER A quasi-religious group of ultimate defenders of life and guardians of peace, who promote selflessness and emotional detachment as a way of life. Members must master the use of the Force, undergoing trials that can lead them to becoming members of the Order. Those who pass their trials can eventually become Jedi knights, and those who become leaders within the Order are referred to as Jedi masters.

KRIFF Popular curse word used throughout the *Star Wars* universe.

ORDER 66 A top-secret order issued by the Grand Army of the Republic that branded all Jedi as traitors and called for their execution.

PADAWAN An apprentice or student training with a Jedi knight or master.

REBEL ALLIANCE A resistance movement with roots in the Clone Wars, comprised of freedom fighters including Leia Organa and Luke Skywalker, whose primary goal was to bring down the Galactic Empire.

THE RESISTANCE Private military force founded by Leia Organa to keep an eye on, and fight against, the rise of the First Order.

RULE OF TWO Philosophy designed by the Sith to destroy the Jedi Order. It allows only two Sith lords to operate at one time—one to represent the dark side of the Force and the other to train with him.

> **"Why, you stuck-up, half-witted, scruffy-looking Nerf Herder!"** PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA TO HAN SOLO, *THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK*

THE FIRST ORDER A group of fascistic former Imperial leaders who became a galactic power after the Empire was crushed by the New Republic. It rose to prominence out of the ashes of the original Galactic Empire.

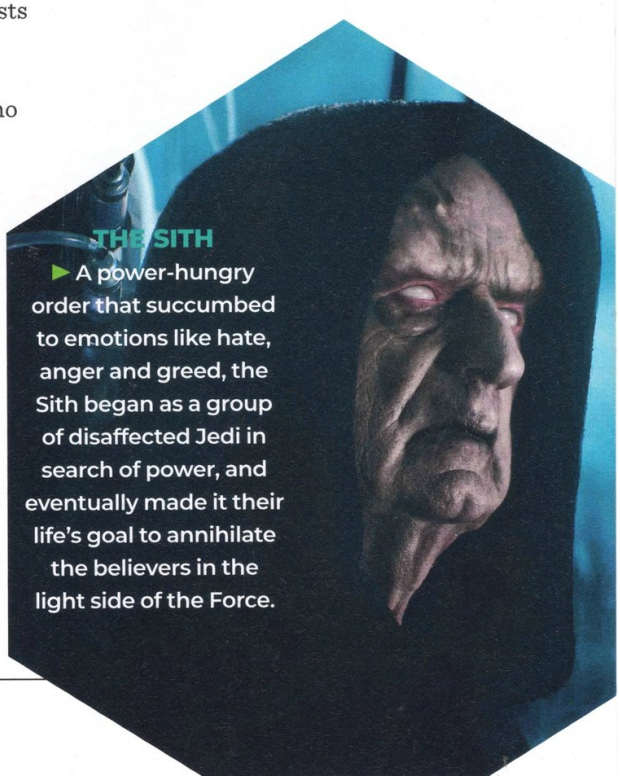
THE FORCE As described by Jedi master Obi-Wan Kenobi in *Episode IV: A New Hope*, it's "an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us, penetrates us and binds the galaxy together." Harnessing this power results in spectacular fighting skills, telekinesis and the ability to cloud minds.

FORCE GHOST A master of the Force who retains his/her identity after death and communicates with the living.

MIDI-CHLORIANS Intelligent, microscopic organisms that exist inside the cells of all living beings. When a sufficient number are present, they may help their hosts detect the Force.

NERF HERDER Someone who watches over the cattle-like creatures called Nerfs. It's generally used as a way to call someone simple and sloppy.

OLD REPUBLIC A governmental group made up of thousands of worlds, it predates the world that is shown in the *Star Wars* feature films, and it is the predecessor to the Galactic Republic.



THE SITH
▶ A power-hungry order that succumbed to emotions like hate, anger and greed, the Sith began as a group of disaffected Jedi in search of power, and eventually made it their life's goal to annihilate the believers in the light side of the Force.

STAR GAZING

A RUNDOWN OF SOME OF THE MANY PERFORMERS WHO FOUND A HOME IN ONE OF FILM'S FINEST FRANCHISES.

BY LINDA FRIEDMAN AND JENNA HARDS

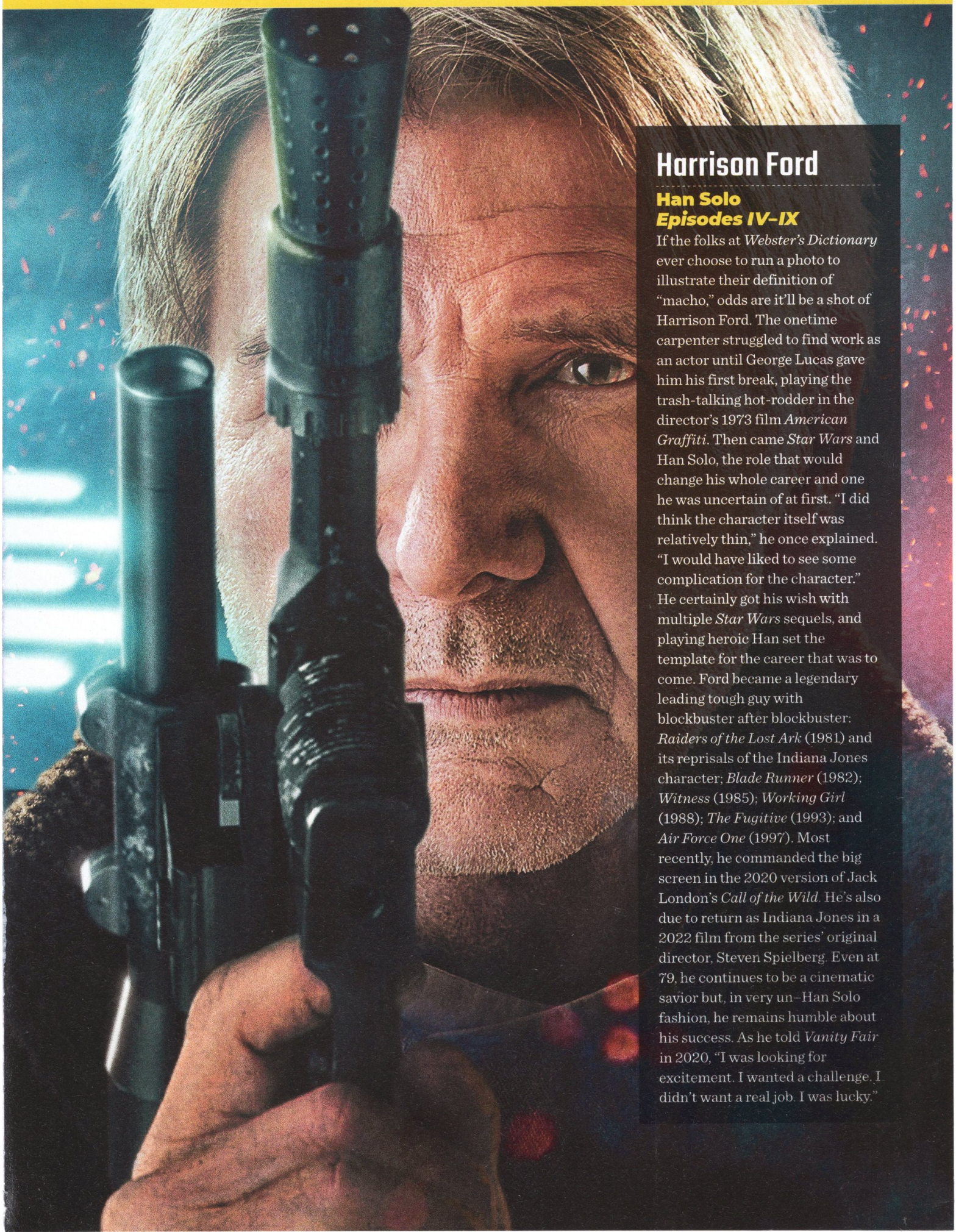
When you think about it, *Star Wars* films and TV shows are a lot like the tractor beam that snared the *Millennium Falcon*, drawing it into the bowels of the Death Star in *A New Hope*. They both have the power to capture and hold onto anything significant in their path. Tractor beams may pull in starships, but *Star Wars* projects are just as adept at attracting stars. Some are not yet shining, others are already burning bright. In every case, though, appearing in a *Star Wars* venture has given actors a career highlight (not to mention a guaranteed income for life signing autographs at conventions). Here's a look at just some of the talent whose careers have taken off in this franchise.

Carrie Fisher

Princess Leia Organa
Episodes IV–IX



Quick-witted, independent and able to rock a cinnamon bun hairdo without looking half-baked: That description suits the plucky princess as well as Carrie Fisher herself (minus the pastry). She was born into Hollywood royalty, the daughter of legendary actress Debbie Reynolds and singer Eddie Fisher. Her career took off when she was 19 and stepped into the white robes of Leia, one of cinema's most memorable female action heroes. Offscreen, she fought a much tougher battle with substance addiction and bipolar disorder, which she documented in her one-woman play, *Wishful Drinking*, as well as her novel *Postcards From the Edge*. Those struggles didn't stop her from becoming one of Hollywood's top script doctors, even working on the *Star Wars* franchise. Despite all her accolades (including two Emmy nominations), the actress, who passed away in 2016, knew what her legacy would ultimately be. "I am Princess Leia, no matter what," she once said. "If I were trying to get a good table [at a restaurant], I wouldn't say I wrote *Postcards*. Or if I'm trying to get someone to take my check and I don't have ID, I wouldn't say, 'Have you seen *When Harry Met Sally*?' 'Princess Leia' will be on my tombstone."



Harrison Ford

Han Solo
Episodes IV–IX

If the folks at *Webster's Dictionary* ever choose to run a photo to illustrate their definition of "macho," odds are it'll be a shot of Harrison Ford. The onetime carpenter struggled to find work as an actor until George Lucas gave him his first break, playing the trash-talking hot-rodder in the director's 1973 film *American Graffiti*. Then came *Star Wars* and Han Solo, the role that would change his whole career and one he was uncertain of at first. "I did think the character itself was relatively thin," he once explained. "I would have liked to see some complication for the character." He certainly got his wish with multiple *Star Wars* sequels, and playing heroic Han set the template for the career that was to come. Ford became a legendary leading tough guy with blockbuster after blockbuster: *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981) and its reprisals of the Indiana Jones character; *Blade Runner* (1982); *Witness* (1985); *Working Girl* (1988); *The Fugitive* (1993); and *Air Force One* (1997). Most recently, he commanded the big screen in the 2020 version of Jack London's *Call of the Wild*. He's also due to return as Indiana Jones in a 2022 film from the series' original director, Steven Spielberg. Even at 79, he continues to be a cinematic savior but, in very un–Han Solo fashion, he remains humble about his success. As he told *Vanity Fair* in 2020, "I was looking for excitement. I wanted a challenge. I didn't want a real job. I was lucky."

James Earl Jones

Voice of Darth Vader
Episodes III–VI



James Earl Jones is one of those rarified EGOTs (Emmy-Grammy-Oscar-Tony Award winners) whom everyone wants to work with, but his most popular role is one that came about by accident. He was only brought into the *Star Wars* universe to dub Darth Vader's lines during postproduction of *Episode IV: A New Hope* after George Lucas decided the voice of the actor who was portraying the dark lord, David Prowse, wasn't deep enough for the role.



Ewan McGregor

Young Obi-Wan Kenobi
Episodes I-III, VII

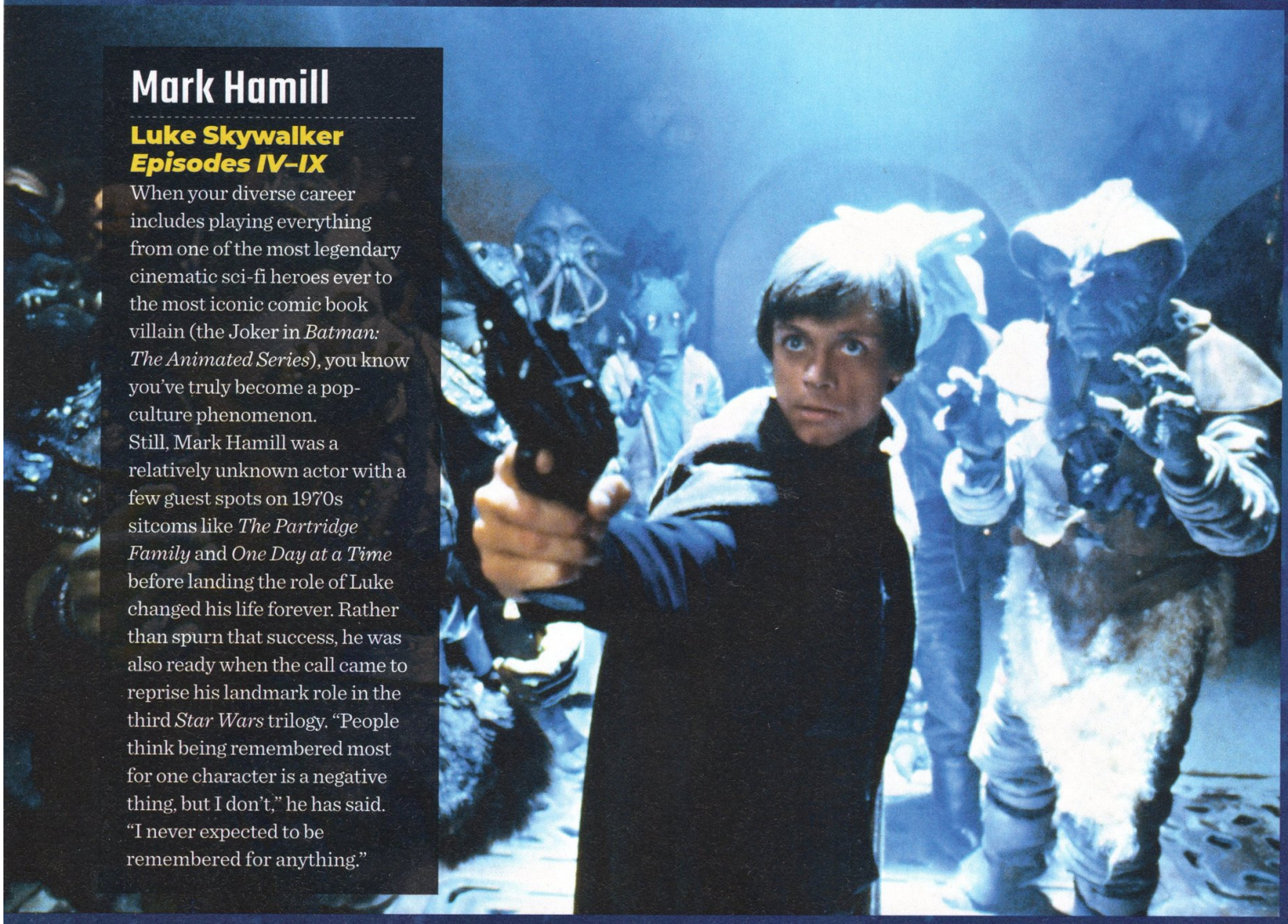
If Scottish actor Ewan McGregor had listened to his uncle Denis Lawson (who played starfighter pilot Wedge Antilles in the original trilogy), he never would have portrayed young Obi-Wan Kenobi in the *Star Wars* prequels. "He was one of the people who said, 'Don't do it, don't do it, don't do it.' And then the nearer I got to it, the more I wanted to do it." The actor, whose career highlights include the 1996 film *Trainspotting* and the 2017 season of the series *Fargo*, won't forget the Force any time soon. He's starring in the highly anticipated Disney+ *Obi-Wan Kenobi* series.

Mark Hamill

Luke Skywalker
Episodes IV–IX

When your diverse career includes playing everything from one of the most legendary cinematic sci-fi heroes ever to the most iconic comic book villain (the Joker in *Batman: The Animated Series*), you know you've truly become a pop-culture phenomenon.

Still, Mark Hamill was a relatively unknown actor with a few guest spots on 1970s sitcoms like *The Partridge Family* and *One Day at a Time* before landing the role of Luke changed his life forever. Rather than spurn that success, he was also ready when the call came to reprise his landmark role in the third *Star Wars* trilogy. "People think being remembered most for one character is a negative thing, but I don't," he has said. "I never expected to be remembered for anything."



Sir Alec Guinness

Obi-Wan Kenobi
Episodes IV–VI



The esteemed English actor began his career performing Shakespeare and was knighted by Elizabeth II for his contributions to the arts. He won an Oscar (for *The Bridge on the River Kwai* in 1957) but it's for his time as Old Ben Kenobi that he may be best remembered. Alec Guinness wasn't crazy about the part when he made the original *Star Wars*, referring to it as "fairy-tale rubbish," but, he explained, he found the finished film to be "a wonderful fresh air." His ultimate decision to embrace the role was enhanced by the fact that he received Academy Award and Golden Globe nominations for his enduring performance.



A *Rogue* Return?

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story **didn't exactly end well for heroine Jyn Erso (Felicity Jones), but the actress had a sequel option in her contract.**

Billy Dee Williams

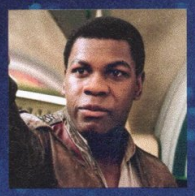
Lando Calrissian
Episodes V, VI & IX



The first African American to land a major role in a *Star Wars* film, Billy Dee Williams was already a well-established actor and painter when cast as Han Solo's pal in *Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back*. It was part of a career that's spanned six decades, and includes more than 100 films and TV shows, including *Batman*, *Brian's Song* and *The Jeffersons*. Along the way, Williams also picked up an Emmy, three NAACP Image Awards and the NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award. He's also still a big part of the *Star Wars* franchise, not only showing up in *Episode IX: The Rise of Skywalker* but voicing Lando in the video game *Lego Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga*.

John Boyega

Finn
Episodes VII–IX



He may have had the distinction of playing the first Black stormtrooper (who went on to become a leader of the resistance after a crisis of conscience); however, Nigerian Briton John Boyega didn't want to rest on those laurels. Instead, the actor and producer, who has gone on to films like *The Circle*, *Detroit* and *Pacific Rim: Uprising*, recently called out producers for diminishing Finn's role (and other roles played by people of color) in the subsequent installments. "What I would say to Disney is do not bring out a Black character, market them to be much more important in the franchise than they are and then have them pushed to the side," Boyega once told *British GQ*.

Felicity Jones

Jyn Erso
Rogue One: A Star Wars Story

The opportunity to play "a kickass girl" in a franchise not known for having many female heroes is what this English actress and self-described feminist says prompted her to join the *Star Wars* universe. An Oscar nominee for her role as Jane Hawking in 2014's *The Theory of Everything*, Felicity Jones has been outspoken about her desire to see more women leading action films. She's also not shy about praising her fellows sisters in (strong) arms. As she told *Glamour*, "I feel like Sigourney Weaver in *Alien* and Jennifer Lawrence in *The Hunger Games*, and later obviously Daisy [Ridley] in *The Force Awakens*, have all passed on the baton." She's also traveled back into sci-fi with the 2020 apocalyptic drama *The Midnight Sky*, alongside George Clooney.

Samuel L. Jackson

Mace Windu
Episodes I–III, Star Wars: The Clone Wars

When one thinks of Samuel L. Jackson and his love of certain four-letter words, he seems an unlikely choice to play a Jedi master like Mace Windu. Still, the actor known for everything from *Pulp Fiction* (which earned him an Oscar nomination) to *Unbreakable* to *Snakes on a Plane* couldn't wait to tackle the role. As he said in an interview with Seth Meyers, he wanted to be in *Star Wars* so badly he went to George Lucas' house and told him, "Look, make me a stormtrooper. I just wanna run across the screen, nobody needs to know. Just let me go."

Liam Neeson

Qui-Gon Jinn
Episode I: The Phantom Menace

As much as this Irish actor enjoyed playing a Jedi master with a very special set of skills, Liam Neeson wasn't entirely taken with the role. "I'm really not a huge fan of the genre," he once explained. "I think it's Hollywood with all the bells and whistles and the technical achievements and stuff—which I admire—but I have no desire to go into the gym for three hours every day to pump myself up to squeeze into a Velcro suit with a cape." Odds are the star of hits like *Schindler's List* and *Taken* will be just fine. In 2021, he continued to be the tough guy in *The Ice Road* and *The Marksmen*.





Natalie Portman

Queen Amidala
Episodes I–III

Natalie Portman was portraying this intergalactic teen queen while still a real-life teenager herself. In fact, she skipped out on the premiere of *The Phantom Menace* to study for her high school exams and attended Harvard while shooting the remainder of the prequel trilogy. Her career has been in the stratosphere ever since, with Oscar nominations for her roles in *Closer* (2005) and *Jackie* (2017) and a Best Actress Oscar win for *Black Swan* in 2011. Portman also has another sci-fi adventure in her future: She's returning to the Marvel Universe to play the female Thor in the upcoming *Thor: Love and Thunder*.



Daisy Ridley

Rey
Episodes VII–IX

Perhaps it's no surprise that scrappy, blue-collar Rey would be brought to life by the equally feisty Daisy Ridley, who worked for two years as a barmaid before landing the role that would skyrocket her to worldwide fame. "Not to float my own boat, but I'm a really good bartender, because I worked in two different pubs for, like, a year and a half in a rowdy London district," Ridley once told Jimmy Fallon. That experience helped give her the perfect edge to portray Rey. Since raising her profile playing the newest Jedi named Skywalker, she's moved on to the Shakespearean drama *Ophelia* and the futuristic 2021 drama *Chaos Walking*.

Adam Driver

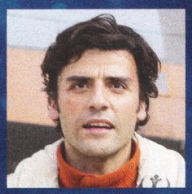
Kylo Ren
Episodes VII–IX



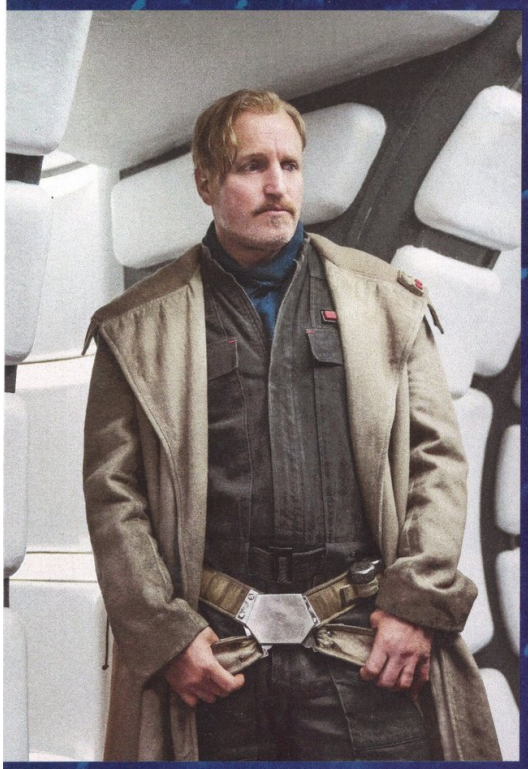
Adam Driver made a great *Star Wars* villain (at least until things changed drastically in those waning moments of *The Rise of Skywalker*), but in real life he was actually a hero, serving in the Marines for three years. After exiting the Corps, he worked his way up to a prominent role in the HBO series *Girls*, which earned him three Emmy nominations. Playing the conflicted progeny of Han Solo and Princess Leia may be Driver's highest-profile role to date, but he's followed up his *Star Wars* experience with prominent parts in critically acclaimed films like *BlacKkKlansman* (2018) and *Marriage Story* (2019). He is definitely in the...wait for it...driver's seat now, with two new films from renowned director Ridley Scott: *House of Gucci* and *The Last Duel*.

Oscar Isaac

Episodes VII–IX, Star Wars Resistance



Guatemala-born Oscar Isaac was flying under the radar (he was best known for 2014's crime drama *A Most Violent Year*) until his career took off in 2015, when he stepped into the cockpit as pilot extraordinaire Poe in the final trilogy. These days, there's no grounding him as he shifts into what he's called "handmade films" like writer/director Paul Schrader's *The Card Counter*, as well as director Denis Villeneuve's big-budget *Dune*. So are Poe's days protecting the Resistance done? "Probably, but who knows?" Isaac once joked. "If I need another house or something."



Woody Harrelson

Tobias Beckett
Solo: A Star Wars Story

At the beginning of his career, Woody Harrelson was best known as the young bartending protégé on *Cheers*. When he arrived in the *Star Wars* universe in the 2018 film *Solo*, though, the tables had turned, and he was now the wily old mentor who schooled Han in the ways of space thievery. His time in the franchise came and went quickly, but the thrice Oscar-nominated actor (*The People vs. Larry Flynt*, *The Messenger*, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*) was back in 2021 in another genre film, joining the Marvel Universe as a villain in *Venom: Let There Be Carnage* and is slated to star in the 2022 action comedy *The Man From Toronto*.

David Prowse

Darth Vader
Episodes IV–VI



Because he spent his *Star Wars* career hidden behind a Darth Vader mask, and had his voice dubbed by James Earl Jones, David Prowse isn't the most recognizable member of the franchise. That might explain why the actor, previously best known for playing the latter titular monster in the 1970s horror flick *Frankenstein and the Monster From Hell*, reportedly used to write "David Prowse IS Darth Vader" when signing autographs for fans. Unfortunately, ill health forced him to retire from all public appearances and he died from COVID-19 in late 2020.

Kelly Marie Tran

Rose Tico
Episodes VIII–IX

Kelly Marie Tran made *Star Wars* history as the first woman of color to play a lead role in the franchise, portraying maintenance worker turned Resistance fighter Rose Tico. As historic as that was, it was a mixed blessing for the Vietnamese American actress. She was the victim of so much online harassment, she ended up deleting her Instagram account. Tran's presence in *The Rise of Skywalker* was also minimized, while #RoseTicoDeservedBetter trended on Twitter. The actress, who began her career as an improv comic, is still plenty busy, though, having starred in the Facebook Watch series *Sorry for Your Loss* and lending her voice to the Disney+ series *Monsters at Work*.





> "Even though I was a fan of the films, I found that there were a lot of people who were true aficionados, who knew everything down to the most minute detail."
>
> JIMMY SMITS

Jimmy Smits

Senator Bail Organa
Episodes II & III, Rogue One: A Star Wars Story

It wasn't much of a stretch for this Brooklyn-born actor to play a member of the Galactic Senate who fights for what's right. That's pretty much been Jimmy Smits' brand, whether it was portraying an idealistic lawyer in the legal series *L.A. Law* or an idealistic cop in *NYPD Blue* or an idealistic politician in *The West Wing*. Still, he has admitted he had to "go to the *Star Wars Encyclopedia* to figure it all out" before tackling his role as Princess Leia's adoptive dad. Post–*Star Wars*, Smits has remained as busy as ever, with roles in series like the legal dramas *Bluff City Law* and *How to Get Away With Murder*, as well as the 2021 film version of the hit musical *In the Heights*.

Forest Whitaker

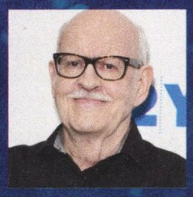
Saw Gerrera
Rogue One: A Star Wars Story, Star Wars Rebels



Forest Whitaker won an Oscar for 2006's *The Last King of Scotland* and starred in acclaimed films like *The Crying Game*, but his role as freedom fighter Saw Gerrera ranks as a personal favorite. As he has said, "He's a character who was fighting against oppression and those dark forces that were trying to harm humanity, but yet decided to take on some of their practices in order to be able to win, because he thought the final result was more important." He most recently starred in the 2021 Aretha Franklin biopic *Respect*.

Frank Oz

Voice of Yoda
Episodes I–II & V–IX, Star Wars Rebels

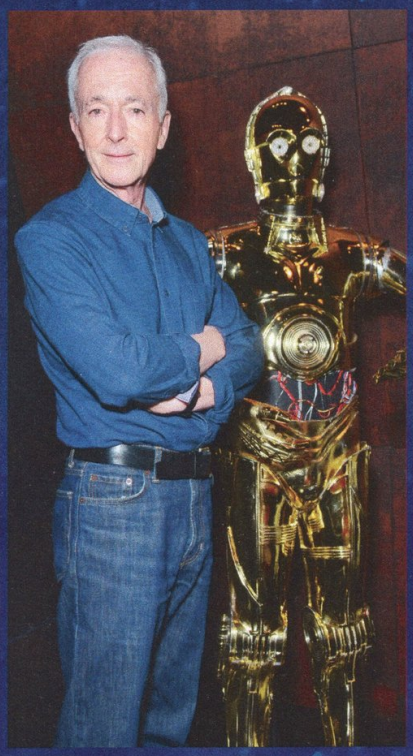


It's hard to imagine legendary Jedi master Yoda without hearing hints of other Frank Oz characters like Cookie Monster and Miss Piggy, but the mean, green, saber-fighting machine almost sounded more like Kermit the Frog. That's because George Lucas wanted Muppet master Jim Henson, who provided Kermit's vocals, to be Yoda. When Henson was too busy, Lucas went with Oz, who has also been busy behind the camera over the years, directing movies like *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *What About Bob?*

Anthony Daniels

C-3PO
Episodes I–IX, Rogue One: A Star Wars Story, Solo: A Star Wars Story, Star Wars: The Clone Wars, Star Wars Rebels

Anthony Daniels has played mechanical moral compass C-3PO in every cinematic incarnation of *Star Wars*, and the English actor and mime artist is pleased that his polite voice has become iconic. He told the *Daily Mail* that he enjoys the fact that "parents often ask me to do it for their children. After all, any old man can claim to be the guy inside the gold suit and kids are rightly skeptical." When not strolling the galaxy as the well-mannered yet cranky droid, he appeared in the detective series *Prime Suspect* with Helen Mirren.



Peter Mayhew

Chewbacca
Episodes III–VII



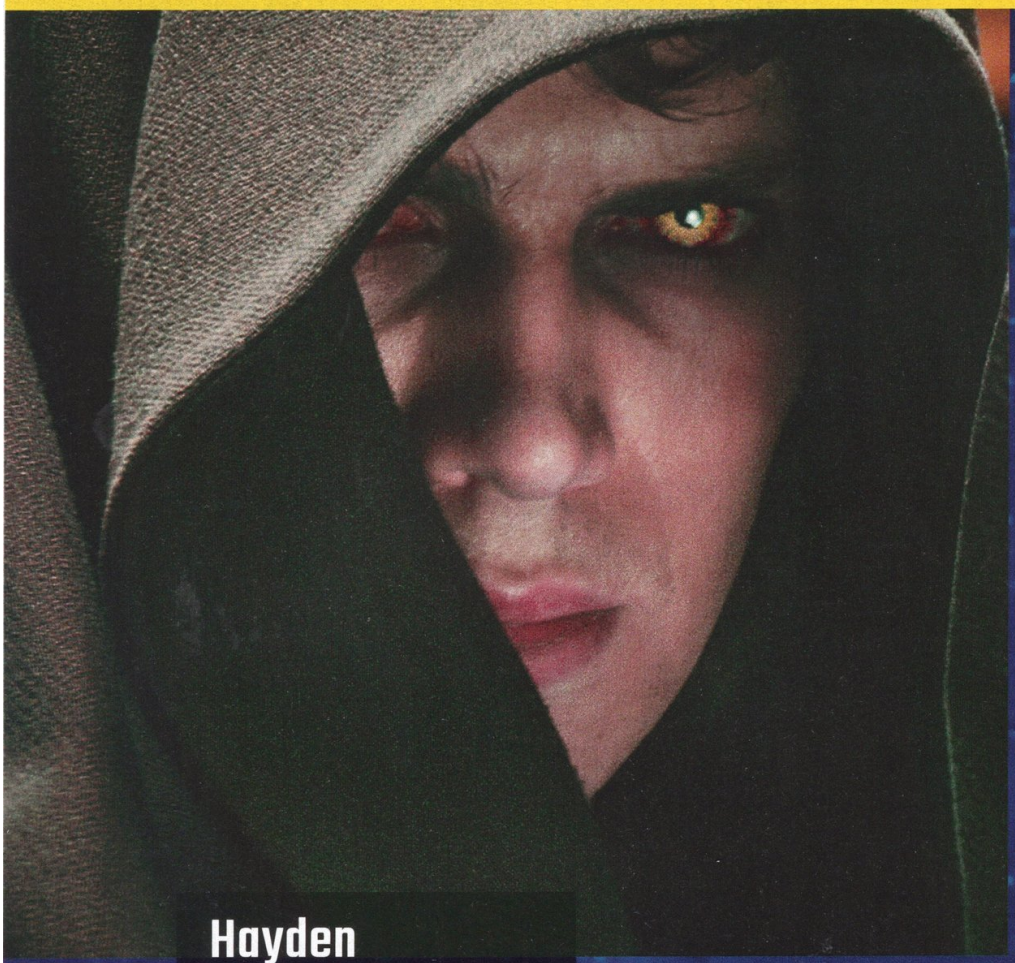
When you're a 7-foot-3 actor, your size is huge but your role choices are slim. British-born Peter Mayhew made the most of his height, however, by landing the part of Han Solo's right-hand fuzzball, the Wookie Chewbacca. The onetime hospital orderly got the gig when the original choice, David Prowse, couldn't fit into the Chewie costume. Mayhew modeled his performance after the bears and monkeys he used to see at the London Zoo. Health issues forced him out of the franchise before filming *The Force Awakens*, and he passed away in 2019.



Alden Ehrenreich

Young Han Solo
Solo: A Star Wars Story

It can't be easy swaggering in the footsteps of Harrison Ford as the iconic antihero, but Alden Ehrenreich got a major confidence builder for his 2018 role as the young Solo from the original Han. "He's a wonderful guy, very sweet.... I'm delighted with the choice," Ford said of Ehrenreich's casting. Prior to playing Chewie's best buddy, the actor was known for roles in movies like *Beautiful Creatures* and *Hail, Caesar!* Most recently, he starred in the 2020 Peacock series *Brave New World*.



Hayden Christensen

Anakin Skywalker/ Darth Vader
Episodes II & III

George Lucas has reportedly said he wanted Hayden Christensen for the pivotal part of the young Jedi warrior who becomes the vicious Vader because he "needed an actor who had that presence of the dark side." The Canadian actor was well-suited for the role, considering that his breakthrough performance came in the 2001 film *Life as a House*, in which he played a troubled teen. Since exiting the *Star Wars* saga, he's appeared in films like *Jumper* (2008) and *Little Italy* (2018). And the rumors are true—he'll return to his Darth Vader days in the upcoming *Obi-Wan Kenobi* series for Disney+.

Pedro Pascal

Din Djarin
The Mandalorian



Action is nothing new for this Chilean American actor, who's appeared in shows like *Game of Thrones* (as Oberyn Martell) and movies like *Kingsmen: The Golden Circle* and *The Equalizer 2*. Pedro Pascal was also seen as Diana Prince's nemesis, Maxwell Lord in *Wonder Woman 1984*. Still, it's his role as the mysterious, helmeted bounty hunter Din/the Mandalorian that has turned him into a swashbuckling star. Pascal modeled the character after one of cinema's ultimate tough guys: Clint Eastwood. In interviews, the actor's referred to Djarin as "iconic, cool, flawed, a lone gunslinger that harkens to the best of the samurai movies and Westerns."

Space Secrets

Over the decades, many famous fans of *Star Wars* have had the chance to slip into cameo roles in their favorite franchise. Here are some of the ones we know about:

KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
The Phantom Menace, as one of Amidala's handmaids

ROSE BYRNE
Attack of the Clones, as handmaiden Dorme

DANIEL CRAIG
The Force Awakens, as a stormtrooper

SIMON PEGG
The Force Awakens, as junk dealer Unkar Plutt

BILL HADER AND BEN SCHWARTZ
The Force Awakens, as BB-8

PRINCES WILLIAM AND HARRY
The Last Jedi, as stormtroopers

JOSEPH GORDON-LEVITT
The Last Jedi, as beach dweller Slowen Lo

LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA
The Rise of Skywalker, as a Resistance fighter

J.J. ABRAMS
The Rise of Skywalker, as droid D-O

JODIE COMER
The Rise of Skywalker, as Rey's mother

A TO Z GUIDE TO *STAR WARS'* HEROES &

FROM ADMIRAL ACKBAR TO ZUCKUSS, HERE ARE THE GOOD AND BAD



A

Admiral Ackbar

There's something fishy about this heroic member of the Rebel Alliance. Literally. He's one of the Mon Calamari species and his giant noggin resembles something you might find inside a dentist's fish tank. Don't let his looks deceive you, though. He is a critical leader during the Clone Wars and the mastermind behind the attack on the second Death Star. Although he didn't make it out alive following the attack on Leia's command ship in *The Last Jedi*, he'll always be remembered for uttering those three special little words during the Battle of Endor: "It's a trap!"

B

Boba Fett

They don't come badder than Boba, one of the galaxy's most fearsome bounty hunters. The clone son of bounty hunter Jango Fett, his true talent for menace first surfaces during *The Empire Strikes Back* when he takes charge of carbonite-encased Han Solo and brings him to Jabba the Hutt. He appeared to die in *Return of the Jedi,* when Han knocked him into the Sarlacc pit, but it turns out Boba's armor helped him survive. The fan favorite is finally getting his own story on the TV series *The Book of Boba Fett*, coming to Disney+ in December.



HELLIONS

GUYS WHO KEEP THE FRANCHISE ALIVE AND KICKING. BY CRAIG TOMASHOFF

Canine Confusion

George Lucas' original vision for the Wookie look came from the time he mistook his pet malamute for a human during a car ride.

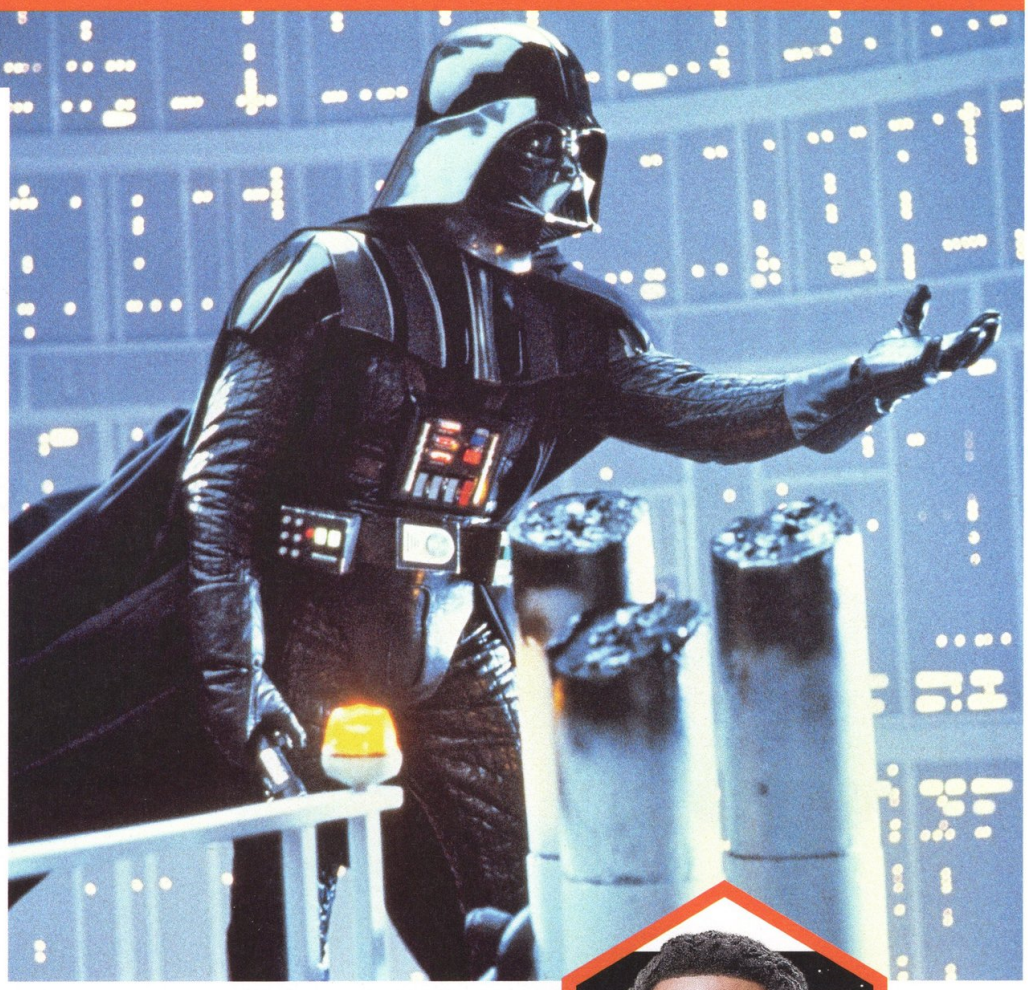


C

Chewbacca

He's been called everything from a "flea-bitten furball" to a "walking carpet," but there's really just one way to refer to Han Solo's best buddy: hero. No doubt the best-known Wookie in the franchise, Chewie (played by Peter Mayhew and Joonas Suotamo) has long been on the right side in battles like the Clone Wars, the Galactic War and the fight against the First Order. There's also no ally more loyal, as Han will tell you. This should be no surprise seeing as how his name is derived from the Russian word for dog, "sobaka."

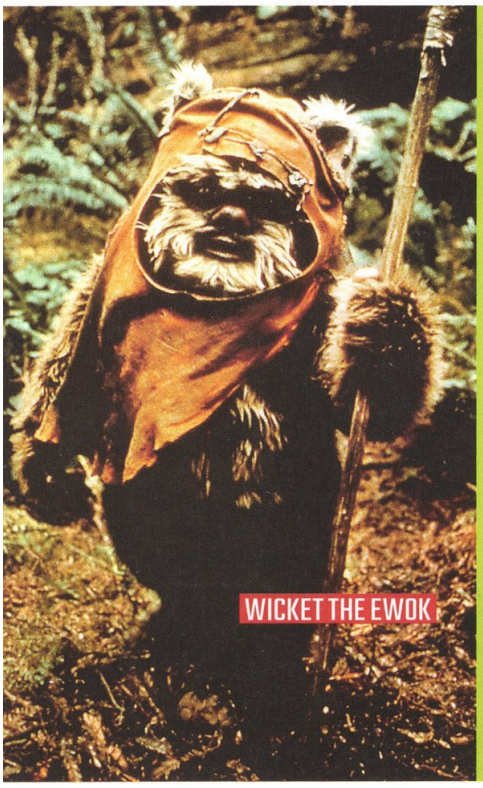
> **"How many people had a teddy bear as a youngster?... That's what Chewie is, he looks after everybody."**
>
> ACTOR PETER MAYHEW



D

Darth Vader

What can you say about the baddest of the bad, a guy whose mailbox is devoid of cards every Father's Day? Sure, there's the one time Anakin tries to make things right there at the end after an adult lifetime filled with mayhem and murder, but according to Travis Langley, PhD, author of *Star Wars Psychology: Dark Side of the Mind*, "There's things that go on in the prequels that make it even harder to accept his redemption. He killed children in the prequels!" It's probably that pivot that cost Vader (iconically voiced by James Earl Jones) the No. 1 spot on the American Film Institute's list of top movie villains (he clocked in third, after Hannibal Lecter and Norman Bates).



E

Ewoks

These little guys may look like cute puppies that should be sitting on your child's bed (no coincidence seeing as their look was inspired by the Brussels Griffon breed of dog George Lucas owned). However, don't be fooled. The Ewoks are a tough lot, having helped the rebels kick the Empire's butt all over Endor in *Return of the Jedi*. Oh, and there's also the fact that they enjoy serving people...on a platter! The Ewoks apparently have a fondness for human flesh. Do you think those empty stormtrooper helmets they're drumming are just for show?



F

Finn

He could have easily ended up on the "Villain" side of this slate. Originally known only as FN-2187, Finn (John Boyega) was essentially born into life as a nameless stormtrooper with nothing to look forward to but serving the First Order and slaughtering any Resistance fighters that got in his way. Then, when confronted with more carnage during his first battle, he sees the light and becomes a key player in the fight for freedom. How much of a hero is he? He's actually Force-sensitive! This popular fan theory was confirmed by *The Rise of Skywalker* director J.J. Abrams not long after the movie's release.

G

General Grievous

More machine than man following surgery to repair his body after being injured during the Clone Wars, he is Supreme Commander of the Separatist Droid Army and ranks high on any cosmic naughty list. Neither Jedi nor Sith, and unable to wield the Force, Grievous still has serious lightsaber skills, thanks to his time training with Sith Lord Count Dooku. His scariest trait, though? The hacking cough that made him seem like the three-pack-a-day guy who stands on his porch yelling at kids to get off his lawn.





H

Han Solo

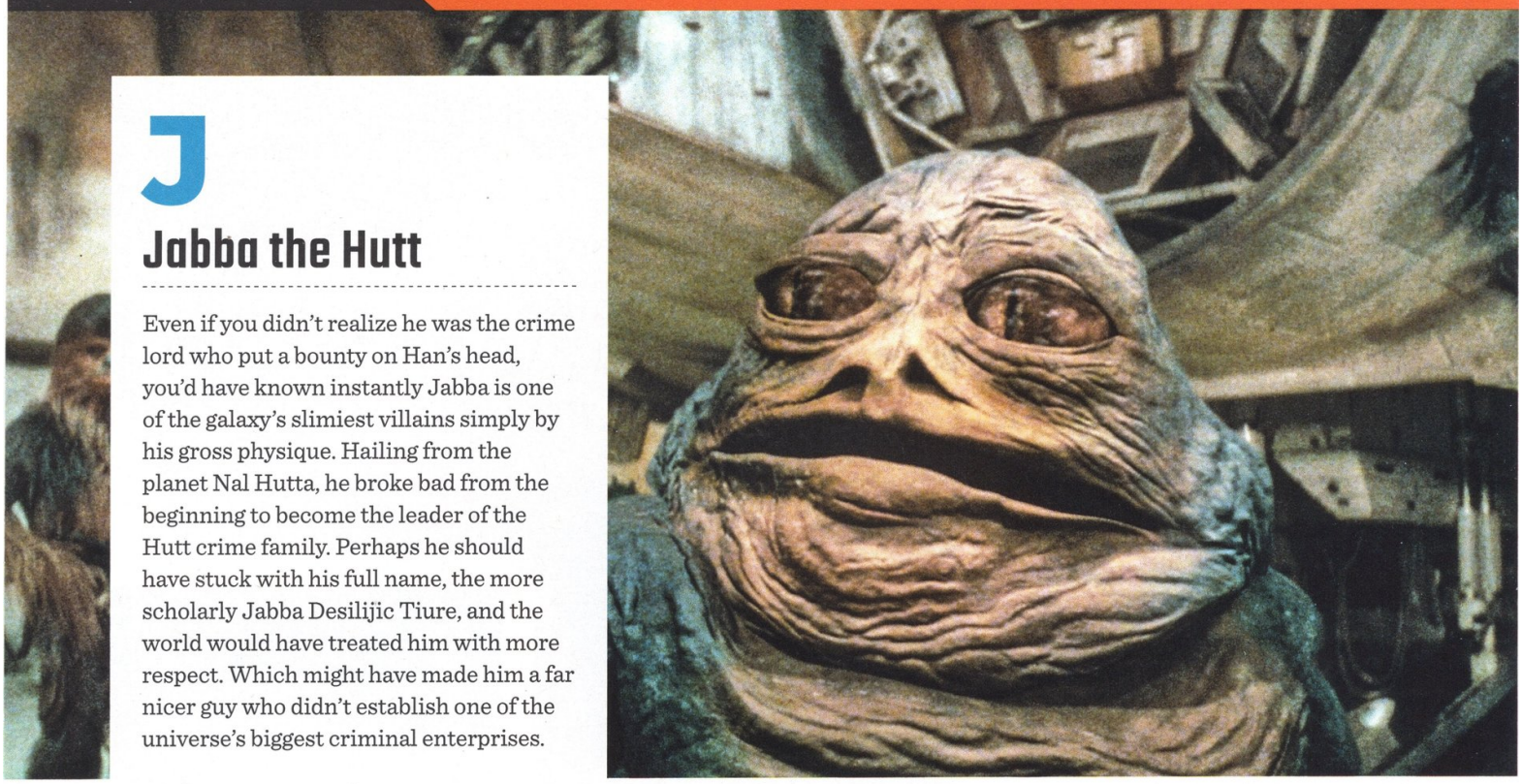
Played by Harrison Ford and Alden Ehrenreich, he's one of the all-time coolest good-bad boys and, eventually, one of the most loyal friends you could find. Still, it wasn't easy for him to get to that place. Says Janina Scarlet, PhD, psychologist and contributor to *Star Wars Psychology: Dark Side of the Mind*, "Commitment issues seem like a possibility for Han. Given that most people close to him either died or betrayed him, getting close to others wouldn't feel comfortable. So early on, he adopted this aloof attitude, keeping people at a distance." Thankfully he found a few friends, or who knows what would have happened to the universe?

I

IG Unit Assassin Droids, IG-11 & IG-88

They're both assassin droids, but there's a difference between them. IG-88 first pops up as one of a bunch of bounty hunters with whom Darth Vader collaborates during *The Empire Strikes Back*. Meanwhile, IG-11 shows up in *The Mandalorian*; after being reprogrammed to forget his past wicked ways, the droid assists with the Mandalorian's protection of the Child (aka Baby Yoda). This turns the villain into a hero, prompting comicbook.com to declare that "if you've never been emotional about a droid before, IG-11 will certainly make it happen."





J

Jabba the Hutt

Even if you didn't realize he was the crime lord who put a bounty on Han's head, you'd have known instantly Jabba is one of the galaxy's slimiest villains simply by his gross physique. Hailing from the planet Nal Hutta, he broke bad from the beginning to become the leader of the Hutt crime family. Perhaps he should have stuck with his full name, the more scholarly Jabba Desilijic Tiure, and the world would have treated him with more respect. Which might have made him a far nicer guy who didn't establish one of the universe's biggest criminal enterprises.

> **"I don't think of (Kylo Ren) as a villain.... I tried to make him hopefully as human as possible."** ADAM DRIVER



K

Kylo Ren

Learning parenting skills from *Star Wars* is as advisable as mastering surgical skills by watching a *Saw* movie. Nobody is bigger proof than Kylo Ren (Adam Driver), the major menace in the latest *Star Wars* trilogy. When your grandpa is Darth Vader, trouble seems certain, but Kylo's parents, Han and Leia, surely made things far worse. "It's the dynamic of middle-age adults who don't know what to do with their young adult son, who they think they've lost to addiction," explains Dr. Langley. Hopefully, Ben sacrificing himself to save Rey means he, mom and dad are hugging it out in the afterlife.

L

Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia

No hero list is complete without this pair whose relationship had a...let's go with awkward...start. They were flirty in *A New Hope* and *The Empire Strikes Back*, and even a *Star Wars* comic book from that era showcased a serious smooch between the future fixtures with the Force. This might explain why in the original draft of *Empire Strikes Back*, Luke's sister was actually named Nellith. Luke (Mark Hamill) and Leia (Carrie Fisher) probably saved millions of people before dying and becoming one with the Force, but between their unique personal history and having both a dad (Darth Vader) and a nephew/son (Kylo Ren) who wanted to control the universe, Skywalker family reunions must be quite something.



LUKE SKYWALKER



PRINCESS LEIA



M

The Mandalorian

Mandalorians (plural) hail from the planet Mandalore, and long battled against the Jedi until they became a pacifist society. The Mandalorian (singular), played by Pedro Pascal, is a lone bounty hunter who would fit perfectly in a spaghetti Western. Known as Din Djarin, a day at work for him is literally murder on his namesake Disney+ show. After a change of heart, though, he's moved on to protecting the life of one adorable Baby Yoda.



N

Nien Nunb

This little fellow has a big history of helping those in need. He was a Sullustan arms dealer and smuggler who then joined the Rebel Alliance to help escort endangered Alderaanians to safety after the first Death Star destroyed their planet. His heroism continued when he served as Lando Calrissian's copilot on the *Millennium Falcon* during the Battle of Endor. Later, after attaining the rank of Lieutenant Commander in the Resistance, he fought in and was one of the few survivors of the Battle of Crait.



A Daily Planet

The name of Obi-Wan's home planet was a mystery until George Lucas told *Daily Show* host Jon Stewart it's known as "Stewjon."

O

Obi-Wan Kenobi

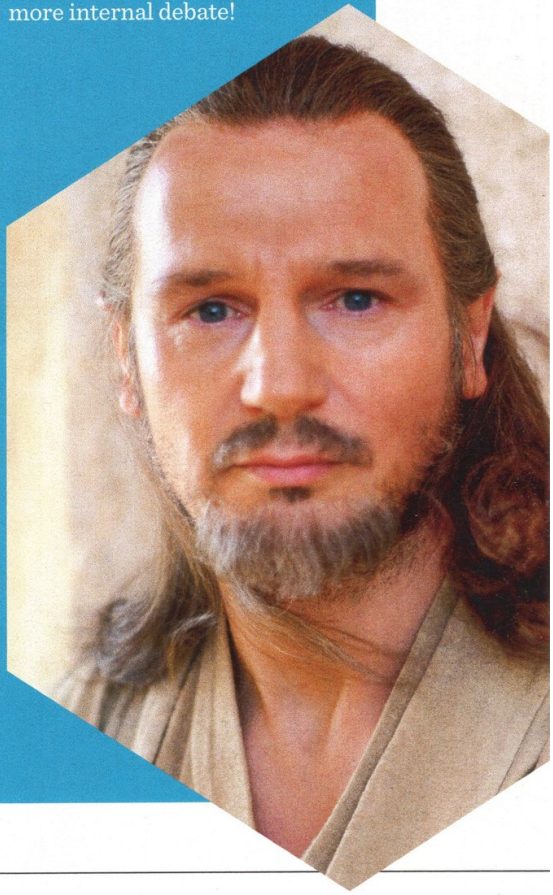
Sure, he's a legendary Jedi master who has seen some huge ups (protecting and then preparing Luke Skywalker) and some massive downs (training and then being betrayed by Anakin Skywalker). The most impressive thing about Obi-Wan (played by Alec Guinness and Ewan McGregor) is that he's like the galaxy's most perfect boyfriend. He'll protect you when others try to harm you. He will always push you to be your best self. And even if you dump him to take up with someone he hates, he'll find a way to forgive you.

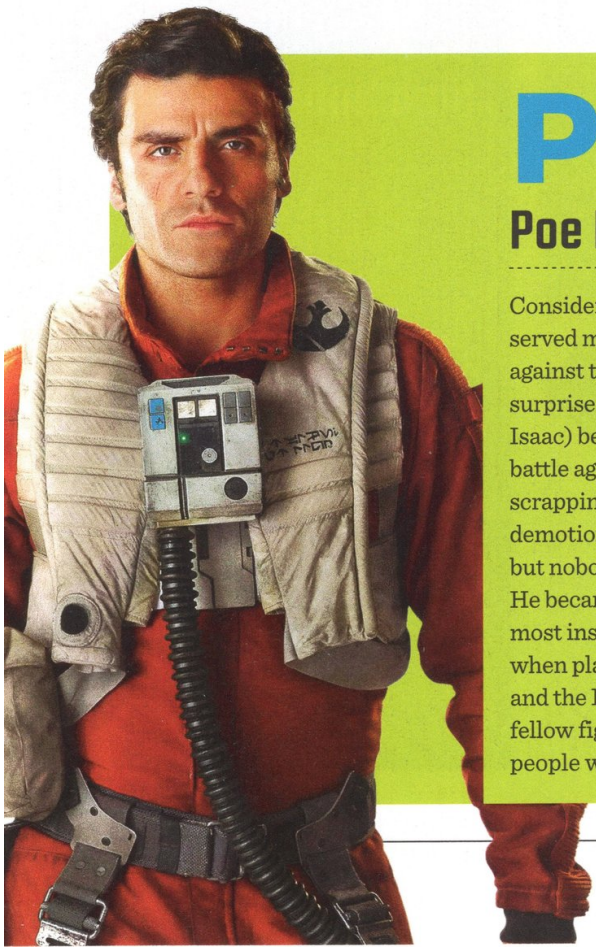


Q

Qui-Gon Jinn

If he hadn't become a Jedi master, Qui-Gon (Liam Neeson) could have made a nice living as a self-help author and motivational speaker. After all, he was a very in-the-moment teacher who was very fond of the phrase, "Feel...don't think—use your instincts." Ever the maverick, he even rejected an offer to join the Jedi Council in order to follow his own path. Unfortunately, that path led him to take in a young slave boy named Anakin Skywalker, whom he was so convinced was the Chosen One that in his dying breath, he convinced Obi-Wan to make the future Darth Vader his apprentice. Talk about decisions that might have benefited from a little more internal debate!





P

Poe Dameron

Considering that both his parents served meritoriously in the fight against the Galactic Empire, it's no surprise this hotheaded hero (Oscar Isaac) became a vital part of Leia's battle against the First Order. His scrappiness may have earned him a demotion following a disastrous attack but nobody can fly a fighter like Poe. He became one of the Resistance's most inspiring leaders, especially when planning the attack on Exegol and the Final Order as he reminds his fellow fighters, "We're not alone. Good people will fight if we lead them."



R

Rey

If ever there was someone for whom the dark side made sense, it's Rey (Daisy Ridley). She grew up assuming her parents had abandoned her, only to discover she was the evil Emperor Palpatine's granddaughter. She survived as a scavenger in a time of war. Even the one guy who could have helped her—Mr. Force himself, Luke Skywalker—was kind of a jerk to her. Meanwhile, the one guy who wanted to hang out with her—Kylo Ren—was the consummate bad boy. Nonetheless, lonely Rey finds her own inner light and fights the intense urges to break bad by destroying her bad grandpa. Explains Judy Ho, PhD, neuropsychologist and co-host of *The Doctors*, "I hope that in the aftermath of the movies, she said to herself, 'Yeah, I can take a day off from being a hero. And maybe people will still want to hang out with me and have a cup of coffee or something.'"



S

Sheev Palpatine & Snoke

You can't really talk about one of these ultimate villains without discussing the other, seeing as how Emperor Palpatine (Ian McDiarmid) created Supreme Leader Snoke (a CGI Andy Serkis) as a puppet —literally, probably—stand-in to help his final attempt to take control of the galaxy. Still, they don't come more menacing than Palpatine (aka Darth Sidious), who trained in the ways of the dark side while very young before purging the Jedi Order after becoming Supreme Chancellor, and later installing the Galactic Empire to make himself Emperor. Rey may have dispatched him once and for all, but he did die once before, seemingly blowing up along with Death Star 2.0. No matter what's next, Palpatine remains the very face of villainy when it comes to *Star Wars*. Just look at it. It looks like what happens to a turkey sandwich if you leave it in a closet for a millennium.





T

Teedo

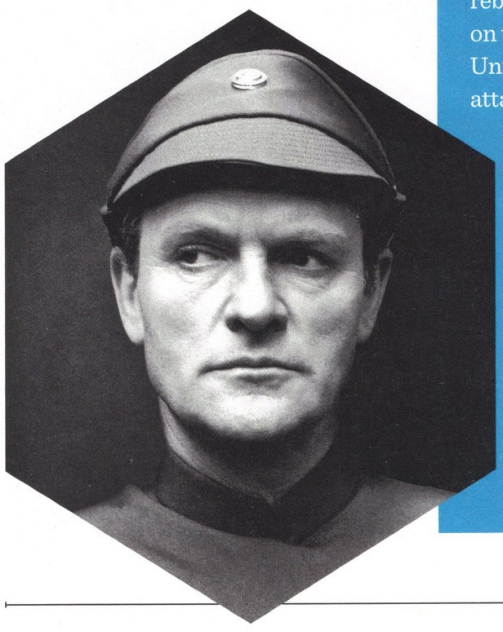
This reptilian sand dweller may not look too threatening, but don't let that fool you. He's a scavenger who will do whatever it takes to acquire whatever scraps he can, something Rey found out when they encountered each other on Jakku and this cruel little fellow tried to swipe BB-8 from her not long after she'd first discovered the droid. He's also not very creative, seeing as how his name Teedo is the same moniker for his species itself.

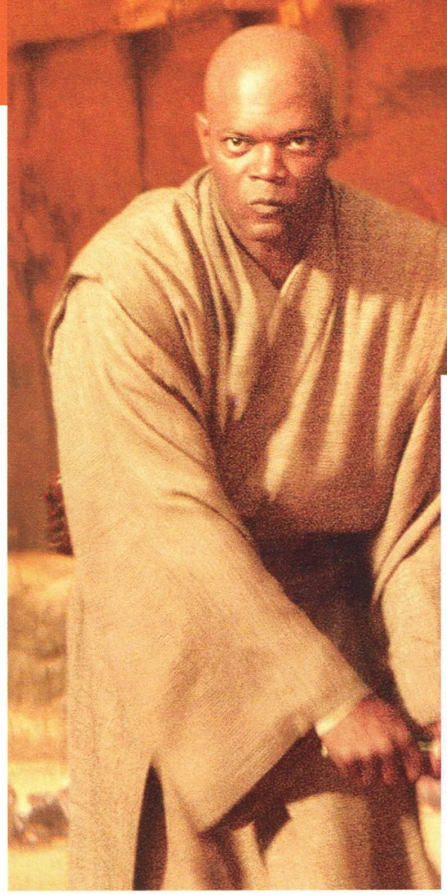


U

Ulic Qel-Droma

Long before Anakin turned his back on the Jedi and went all Sith on everyone, there was the far lesser-known but equally dangerous Ulic Qel-Droma. Early in his life, he was a contented member of the Jedi Order who wanted to help end the Beast Wars on Onderon. However, his plan to infiltrate the Sith goes awry when he's injected with a rage-filled poison and winds up on the dark side and then spends life as a Sith lord. Unlike Darth/Anakin, though, there was no redemption for Ulic. He killed his brother, got rejected by both Jedi and Sith, and died a lonely death in exile.





V

General Veers

This Imperial officer (Julian Glover) is a cool customer, literally and figuratively: He's best known for leading the assault on Hoth and commanding an onslaught of AT-AT walkers to destroy the rebels' protective energy shield on the ice-covered planet. Unfortunately for him, the attack didn't end well—a snowspeeder crashed into his AT-AT's cockpit and left him unable to walk. The rest of his career was undistinguished, right up until he died on a suicide mission during the Battle of Balmorra. On the plus side, his evil ways inspired his son Zevulon to seek a better life and fight with the rebels.



W

Mace Windu

There are Jedi masters. And then there is Mace Windu (Samuel L. Jackson). He was an elected leader of the Jedi during the Clone Wars, served on the Jedi Council and was a Jedi general in the Grand Army of the Republic. Most importantly, though, Windu was the one who became most suspicious of Supreme Chancellor Palpatine (whom he once served as an adviser) and the future dictator's slow and steady power grab. He wasn't able to stop it, with Anakin cutting off his hand before he could kill Palpatine, and the chancellor branding the late Jedi as the leader of a criminal conspiracy. Nonetheless, he's remembered as perhaps the most powerful Jedi ever, as well as being the most fashionable thanks to his stylish purple lightsaber.



"I will always have a special fondness for Yoda, because it was a character that was a way to speak about spirituality..." MARK HAMILL

X

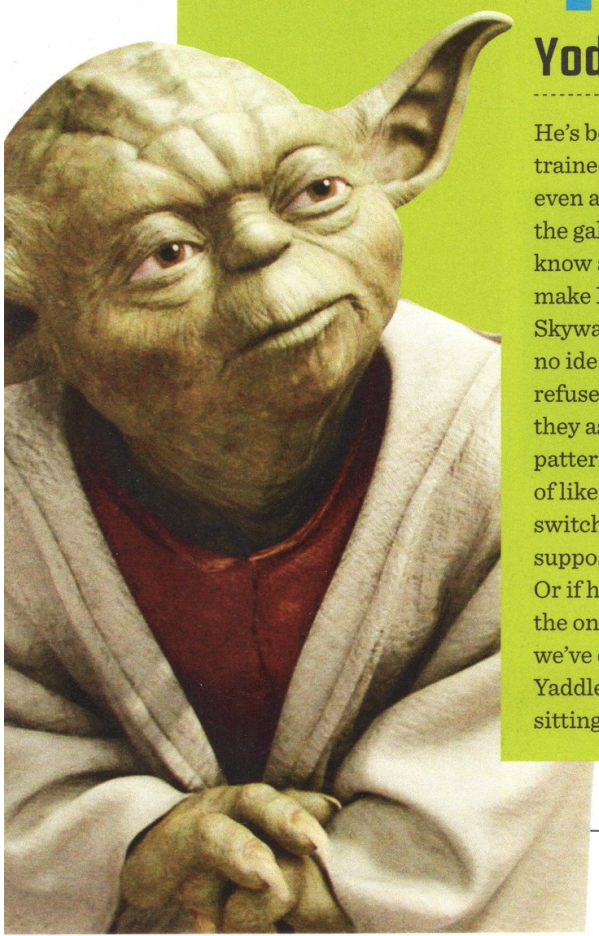
Xi'an



Hailing from the Twi'lek species, Xi'an (Natalia Tena) is a hissing, snarling master of knives who finds herself entangled (sexually and professionally) with fellow bounty hunter Din Djarin. Working with a small crew, they try to rescue her brother Qin from a New Republic ship but her bitterness over their breakup resurfaces. After a double-cross with Xi'an trapping Din and wanting him dead, there's a cross of the double-cross and he leaves her imprisoned (but not dead)—leaving fans to wonder if this could be an episode of *The Mandalorian* or something out of *Dr. Phil*.

Y

Yoda



He's been around for 900 years and trained more than 20,000 Jedi, but even after all his valiant efforts to save the galaxy, there's a lot we still don't know about the creature who helped make Luke Skywalker into, well, Luke Skywalker. In particular, we still have no idea what species he is (he even refuses to tell the Jedi Council when they ask him). Or why his speech pattern is all out of whack. ("It's kind of like dyslexia, where basically he switches words in the order they are supposed to be said," explains Dr. Ho.) Or if he ever secretly had a fling with the only other member of his species we've ever seen—a female named Yaddle—who was only glimpsed briefly sitting on the Jedi Council.



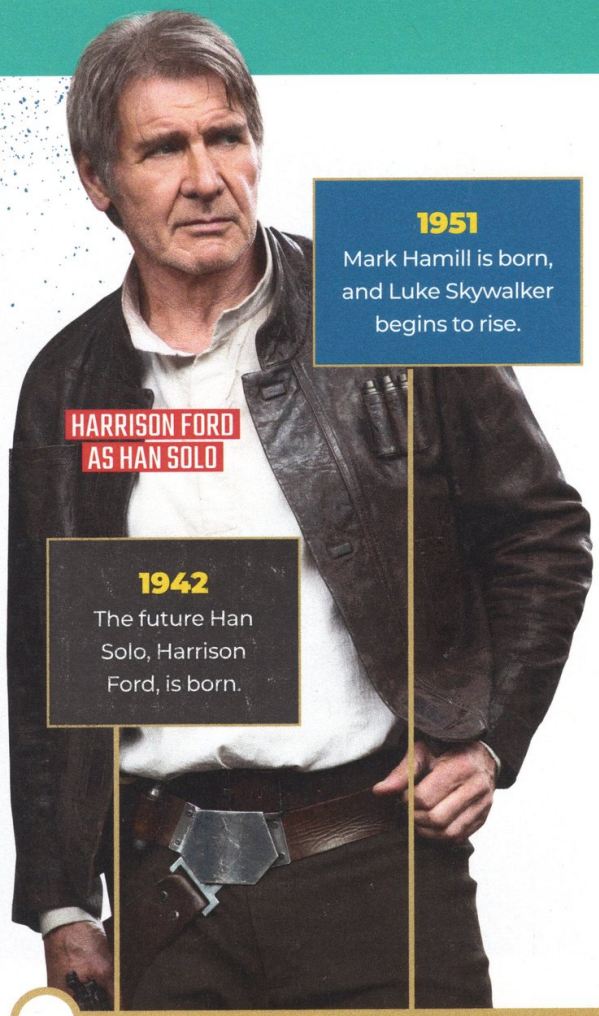
Z

Zuckuss

This big bug-looking bounty hunter, also known as "the Uncanny One" thanks to his ability to sense the presence of his enemies and anticipate their motives, has something in common with many bad guys in the *Star Wars* universe. He'd had a bad experience with Han Solo and wanted revenge. A native of the planet Gand, he is one of many bounty hunters who responds to Darth Vader's call for assistance in trying to track down Solo and the rest of the *Millennium Falcon*'s fugitive passengers.

TIMELINE

A LOOK BACK AT SOME OF THE MOST MEMORABLE HIGHLIGHTS DURING *STAR WARS'* 40-PLUS-YEAR RUN AS A CULTURAL PHENOMENON.



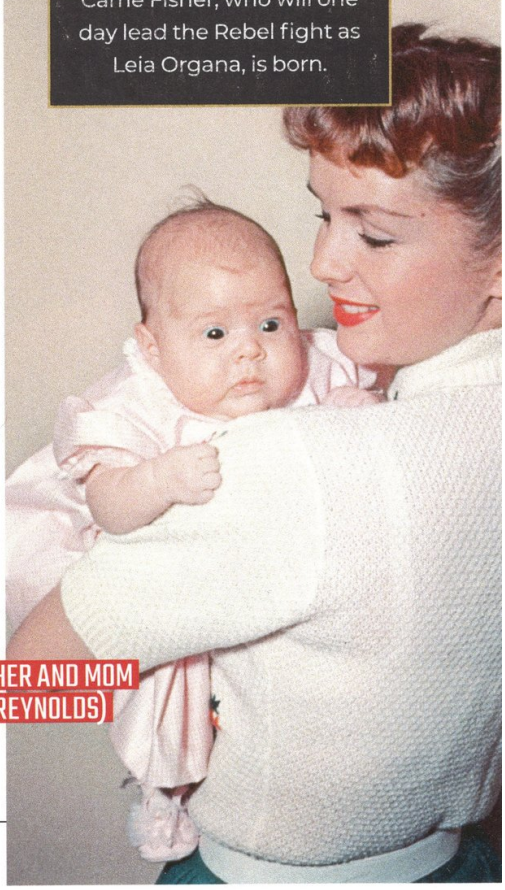
HARRISON FORD AS HAN SOLO

1951
Mark Hamill is born, and Luke Skywalker begins to rise.

1942
The future Han Solo, Harrison Ford, is born.

1956
Carrie Fisher, who will one day lead the Rebel fight as Leia Organa, is born.

1944
George Lucas, who will usher in this new universe, is born.



CARRIE FISHER AND MOM (DEBBIE REYNOLDS)

A new era begins with the release of *Star Wars*—eventually known as *Episode IV: A New Hope*—on May 25, 1977. It went on to earn more than $775 million.



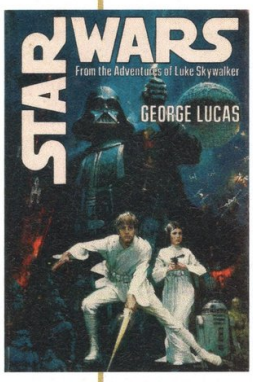
Drawn to Success

When pitching the first *Star Wars* to 20th Century Fox, George Lucas used a series of 21 drawings from illustrator Ralph McQuarrie.

1977

A month before the release of the *Star Wars* film, Marvel Comics releases the first series of comics based on the movie. It would run until 1986.



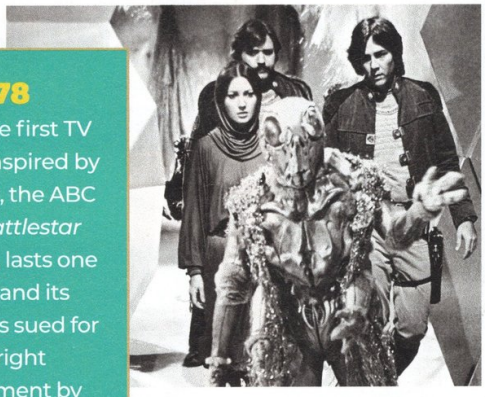


1976

Based on Lucas' *Star Wars* screenplay, the film's novelization (credited to Lucas but ghostwritten by sci-fi author Alan Dean Foster), called *Star Wars: From the Adventures of Luke Skywalker*, is published six months before *Star Wars* is released.

1978

One of the first TV projects inspired by *Star Wars*, the ABC series *Battlestar Galactica*, lasts one season and its studio gets sued for copyright infringement by 20th Century Fox (which released *Star Wars*).



The novel *Splinter of the Mind's Eye* is published, marking the first installment of what becomes the expanded *Star Wars* universe.

CBS airs the legendarily awful *The Star Wars Holiday Special*, wherein Chewie tries desperately to get home to see his family, including son Lumpy and father Itchy. No wonder it never aired on broadcast TV again.



Ewok to Remember

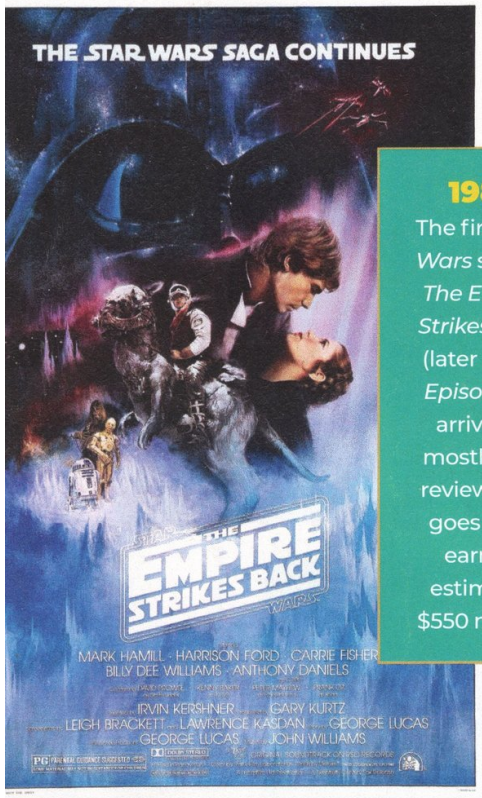
Even though Ewoks play a big role in *Return of the Jedi*, none of the other characters in the film ever refer to them by that name.

1979

The first officially licensed *Star Wars* video game—Star Wars Electronic Battle Command—hits stores. The table-top game features LED lighting and offers players the chance to "simulate all the exciting action and strategy of Hyperspace combat."

1980

The first *Star Wars* sequel, *The Empire Strikes Back* (later called *Episode V*), arrives to mostly rave reviews and goes on to earn an estimated $550 million.



1983

Episode VI, initially known as *Return of the Jedi*, completes the original trilogy, introduces the world to the cuddly Ewok clan and ultimately takes in $475 million.

Star Wars moves beyond fantastical fiction when President Ronald Reagan unveils his plans for the Strategic Defense Initiative, a space-based system to protect America from nuclear war. Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy refers to the program as "reckless *Star Wars* schemes" and the moniker sticks.

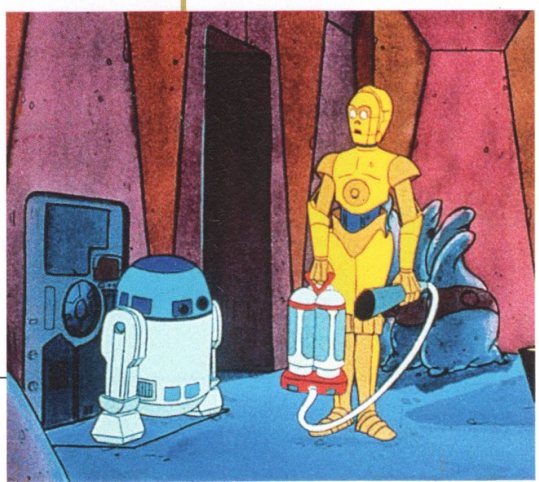


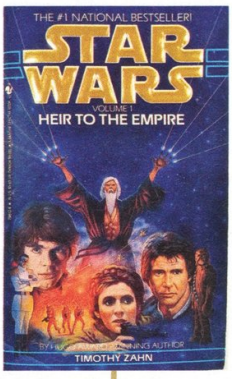
1984

Lucas eases back into television with the family friendly ABC film *Caravan of Courage: An Ewok Adventure*. It does well enough to earn a follow-up, *Ewoks: The Battle for Endor*, which airs a year later.

1985

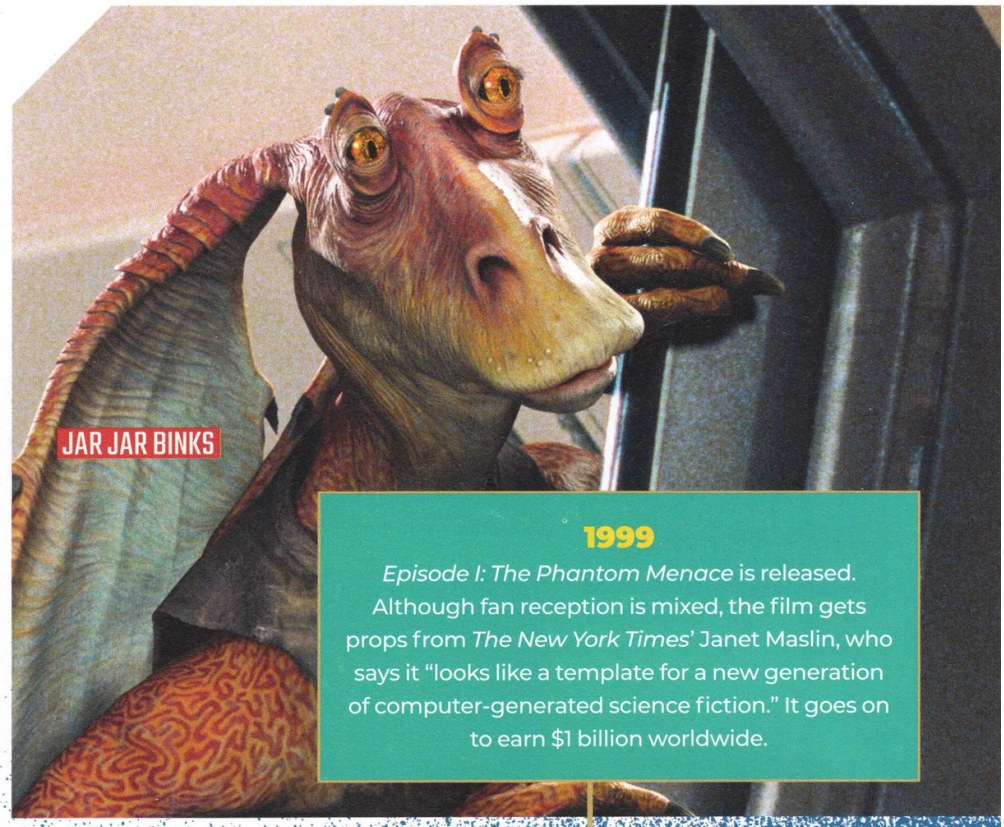
Emboldened by the relative success of the two Ewok telefilms, Lucas launches a pair of Saturday morning cartoon shows, *Droids* and *Ewoks*. The former, which follows a pre–*New Hope* C-3PO and R2-D2, only lasts a year. The latter, which chronicles an earlier era for the Ewoks, manages to run for two.





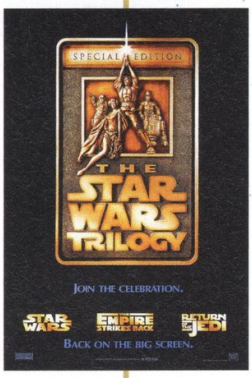
1991

Heir to the Empire is published. Set in the *Star Wars* universe five years after *Return of the Jedi*, this novel by Timothy Zahn is the first installment of a book series (*The Thrawn Trilogy*) often credited with kick-starting Lucas' series of film prequels.



1999

Episode I: The Phantom Menace is released. Although fan reception is mixed, the film gets props from *The New York Times*' Janet Maslin, who says it "looks like a template for a new generation of computer-generated science fiction." It goes on to earn $1 billion worldwide.



1997

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of *A New Hope*, remastered versions of the first three movies are re-released to theaters. Later in the year, they are released on VHS, giving fans the ability to own the films "the way they were meant to be," according to Lucas.



2002

The second prequel, *Episode II: Attack of the Clones*, premieres and earns a Rotten Tomatoes audience score of only 56 percent. Reviewers aren't much more enthusiastic, with the *New York Daily News* claiming "Lucas' obsession with digital technology has obliterated the saga's last remnants of human purpose." It eventually earns around $700 million worldwide.



2003

After nearly 20 years, the franchise returns to television with the animated series *Star Wars: Clone Wars*. The show's clone-centric story line is seen as a bridge between *Episode II* and *Episode III*, lasting for three seasons and winning two Emmy Awards for Outstanding Animated Program.

2007

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of *Star Wars*, NASA sends the lightsaber used by Luke Skywalker in the original film to its rightful destination. The prop weapon is blasted into space on the shuttle *Discovery*.



2011

May 4 officially becomes *Star Wars* Day, with its own motto—"May the Fourth Be With You"—after the Toronto Underground Cinema hosts a well-publicized event that includes a trivia game show, a celebrity-judged costume contest and screenings of several *Star Wars* tribute and parody films.



2005

The final prequel, *Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*, comes out and hits a solid 80 percent on the Rotten Tomatoes Tomatometer. A darker film than the first two episodes, it tops out at earnings of around $850 million.



2008

The franchise returns to animation with *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, not to be confused with the previous show that was just plain *Clone Wars*. A handful of episodes are woven together as a feature film, and that's followed by a series on Cartoon Network. The award-winning show lasts seven seasons, with the final ones airing on Netflix and then Disney+.

Return Engagement

The *Star Wars Rebels* TV series includes stars from the feature films, such as James Earl Jones, Billy Dee Williams and Anthony Daniels.



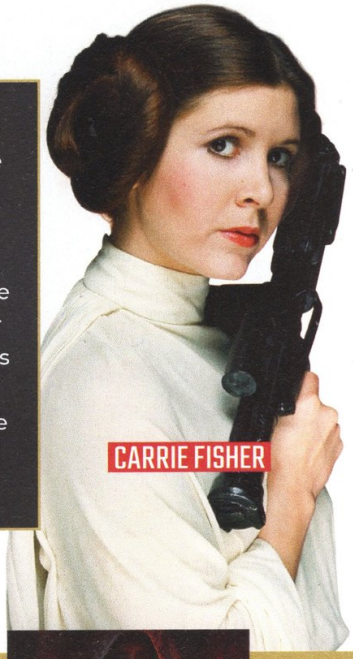
2014

Set five years before the events of *A New Hope*, *Star Wars Rebels* begins its four-season run on Disney XD. The critically adored series earns four Emmy nominations, including two for Outstanding Children's Program.

Shortly after completing Princess Leia's scenes for the eighth *Star Wars* film, Carrie Fisher dies of cardiac arrest.

2016

For the first time, the *Star Wars* film franchise has a stand-alone story courtesy of the release of *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*. Audiences and critics love the new direction and the movie earns more than $1 billion.



CARRIE FISHER





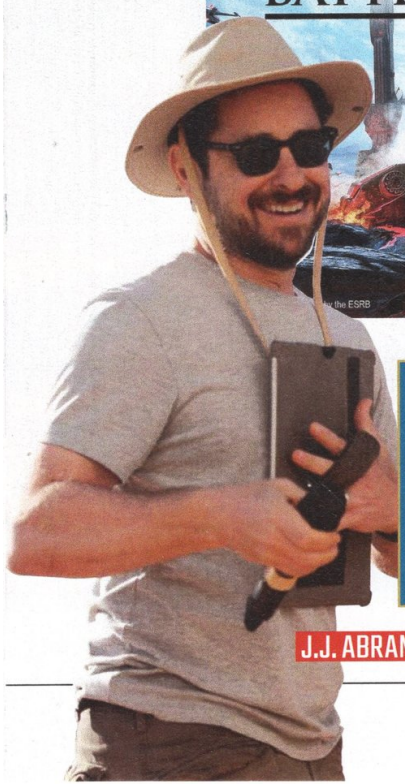
2015

Video game maker Electronic Arts releases Star Wars Battlefront, which reinterprets famous battles from the original trilogy and becomes the best-selling *Star Wars* video game of all time.

2017

Mark Hamill makes his long-awaited return to the franchise with the release of *Episode VIII: The Last Jedi*. Fans are definitely ready, while critics are relatively pleased with what they see. Perhaps the penultimate *Star Wars* film, it earns a hefty $1.3 billion.

Director/producer J.J. Abrams takes control of the *Star Wars* franchise with the release of *Episode VII: The Force Awakens*. The film introduces new characters like Rey and Finn, while bringing old-timers like Leia, Han and Chewie back into the fold. The revival proves so popular that the film winds up taking in roughly $2 billion.



J.J. ABRAMS



2018

The release of *Solo: A Star Wars Story* is another attempt at creating a stand-alone tale, this one chronicling the early days of Han Solo before he meets Luke and Leia. The movie doesn't bowl over anyone, but it earns just shy of $400 million and some begrudging critical praise. As Matt Zoller Seitz puts it on rogerebert.com, "It's a frictionless trip down memory lane."



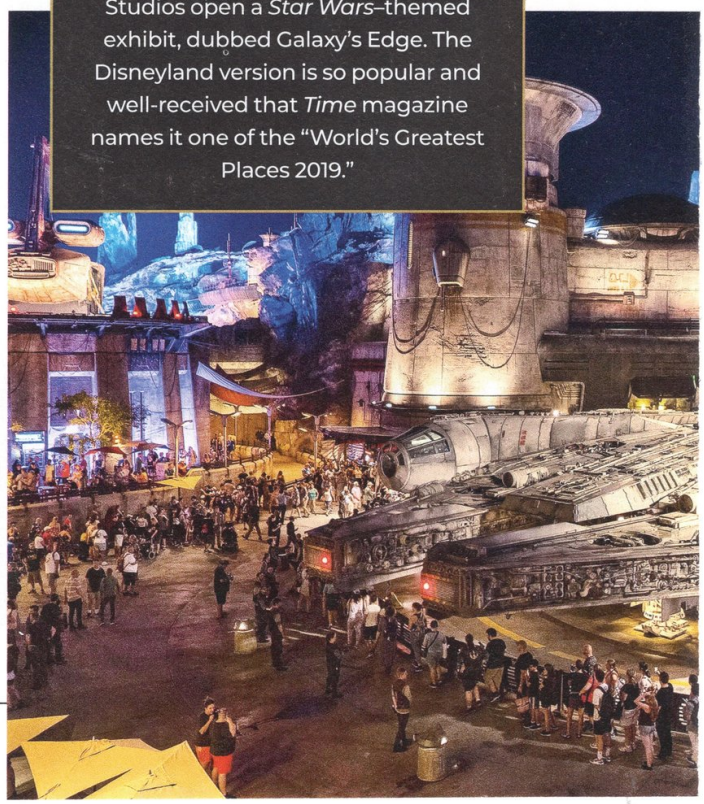
Star Wars Resistance, a 3D animated series set not long after the events of *Force Awakens*, premieres on Disney Channel and Disney XD. It runs two seasons, winning a Saturn Award for Best Animated Series on Television.



2019

On *Star Wars* Day, Elon Musk's aerospace manufacturer SpaceX uses a rocket named after the *Millennium Falcon*—*Falcon 9*—to launch a Dragon resupply ship filled with NASA cargo.

After four years of construction work, Disneyland and Disney's Hollywood Studios open a *Star Wars*–themed exhibit, dubbed Galaxy's Edge. The Disneyland version is so popular and well-received that *Time* magazine names it one of the "World's Greatest Places 2019."





Soaring Success

A study found that *The Mandalorian* was the most in-demand series across several streaming platforms following its 2019 premiere.

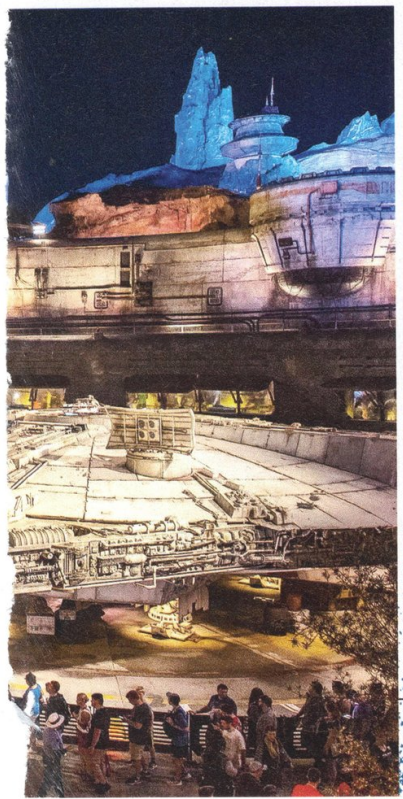
2020

The Mandalorian's second season finale shocks viewers with its final showdown between Mando and Moff Gideon, when a young Jedi named Luke Skywalker fights his way through a crowd of stormtroopers and Dark Troopers to save little Grogu. The biggest surprise? It's Mark Hamill's (de-aged) return to the role that made him famous.



2021

One of the most famous, and infamous, characters in the *Star Wars* canon—bounty hunter Boba Fett—finally gets the chance to have his story told courtesy of his own



After years of *Star Wars* animated series that pleased a primarily younger demographic, the streaming service Disney+ releases the first season of *The Mandalorian*. The show, which follows the adventures of a bounty hunter named Din Djarin, not only introduces the world to Baby Yoda, it also becomes the year's fifth-highest-rated show and walks away with an impressive 15 Primetime Emmy nominations (including one for Outstanding Drama Series).



The *Star Wars* film franchise comes to an end, maybe, with the release of *Episode IX: The Rise of Skywalker*. Fans love it, pushing its Rotten Tomatoes score to 86 percent and its box office total to more than $1 billion worldwide to date. Meanwhile, critics are respectful, though not enthusiastic. According to NPR's Bob Mondello, "It doesn't do anything new or even terribly distinctive, but maybe it didn't have to."

SHIP SHAPE

WHEN IT COMES TO IMPRESSIVE AIRCRAFT, THE SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR THESE FAN FAVORITES. BY ROMAN TOMASHOFF



Spaceships are to *Star Wars* fans what blasters are to clone troopers. Everybody seems to have a particular favorite. With their sleek looks and cool sounds, there's something about them that creates an irresistible urge to climb into a cockpit and have a go at making the Kessel Run in less than 12 parsecs. There's just one problem: There have been so many amazing aircraft that have taken flight all across the *Star Wars* Expanded Universe for more than four decades, from little Anakin Skywalker's champion pod racer to Poe Dameron's exciting X-Wing, it's a challenge to choose the best and the brightest. Still, here are just a few crafts that would definitely be worth taking for a spin across the stars.



Some Reel Action

For an early cut of *A New Hope* shown to pals like Steven Spielberg, George Lucas dropped in old newsreel footage of wartime dogfights.

B-Wing

Featuring a unique design with unusual movement abilities, the B-wing is one of the rarest fighters in the galaxy. There are only a half dozen spread out for use throughout the entire Resistance, but this blockade buster may be the most powerful starfighter around. It's designed with heavy cannons, as well as a gyroscopic movement pod, so there's no ship in the *Star Wars* universe that looks or destroys quite like it. For a full demonstration of its power, look no further than the seventh episode of season two of *Star Wars: Rebels*, "Wings of the Master."

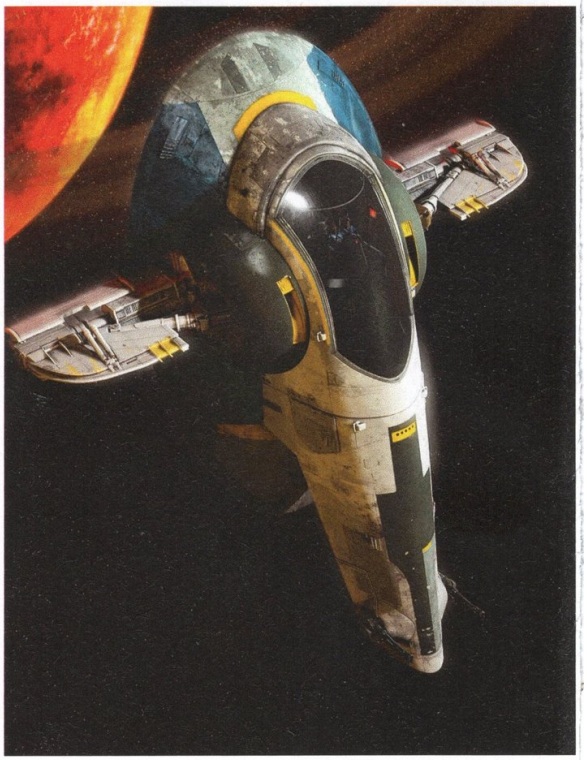
X-Wing

Undoubtedly the most recognizable ship from the *Star Wars* franchise, this Rebel starfighter had its first moment of on-screen glory when Luke Skywalker flew one during the Battle of Yavin in *Episode IV: A New Hope*. X-wings are used by the Rebellion, the Resistance and the New Republic, and are definitely one of the most reliable to be in during a dogfight. They also seem to be able to hold their own against a giant killer space station.



A-Wing

Small, sleek and speedy, these vessels were a key player in the Rebellion. They're Interceptor class ships and the fastest fighters around. At the same time, they're very heavily armed (equipped with blaster cannons and concussion missiles) for a smaller craft. This is why the A-wing is extremely popular with Rebel pilots. However, the craft so far has only been seen once on the big screen, in *Episode IV: Return of the Jedi*.





"In (the original) *Star Wars*, each ship was created for its unique role in the massive and complex adventure... even into future films."

COLIN CANTWELL, MODEL BUILDER FOR *A NEW HOPE*



Y-Wing

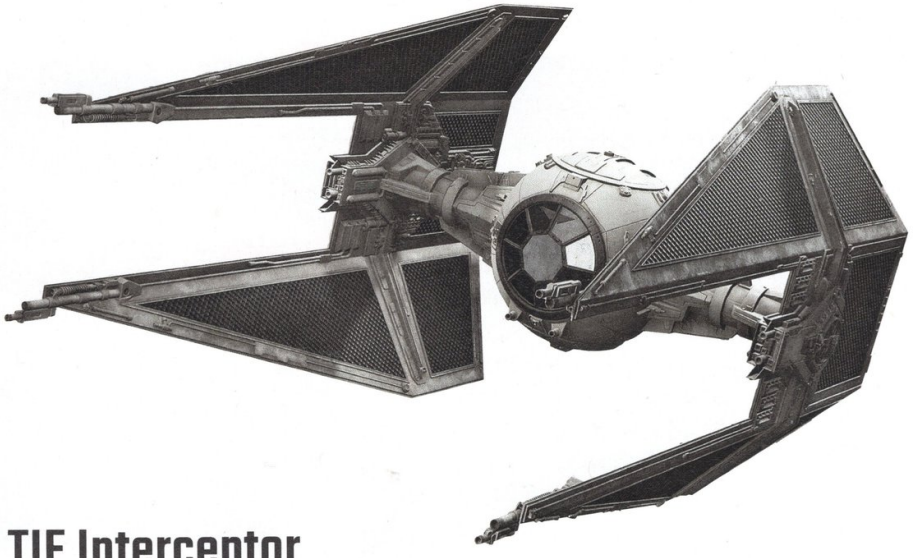
Another staple of the Rebellion, the Y-wing is one of the oldest fighters in the *Star Wars* universe. This ship was first used during the Clone Wars and survived right up to the New Republic era. It was originally retired shortly before the Resistance began to take shape, but a version resurfaced in *Episode IX: The Rise of Skywalker*. Designed for two people, this heavy bomber sports a turret on top of the cockpit to go along with ion cannons in front of the craft.

Sound Judgment

The sounds for nearly all the ships in *A New Hope* came from the engines of real WWII aircraft recorded at air shows in Mojave, California.

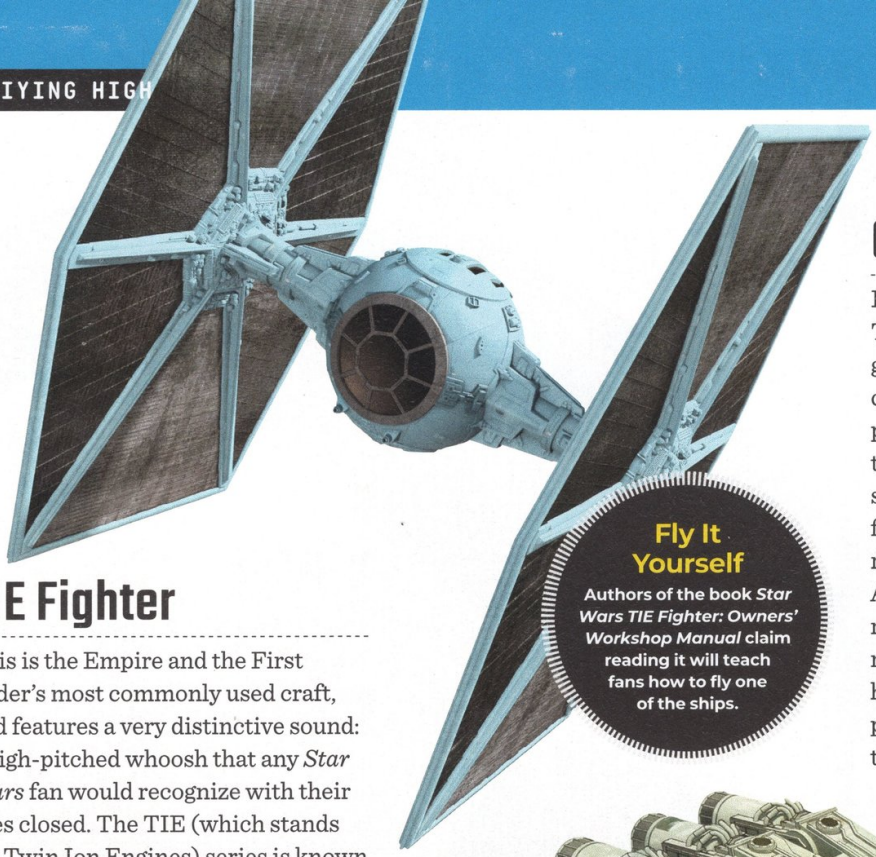
Firespray-31

This model is much more widely recognized as Slave I, the famed ship of bounty hunters Boba Fett and his father, Jango, who spent quite a while modifying the craft so that it's unlike most Firespray models. The Fetts added a few extras, including advanced weapons systems and, most notably, S-thread trackers that can follow a ship through hyperspace—must-have accessories for any on-the-go bounty hunter.



TIE Interceptor

This is the counterpart to the A-wing and gained infamy as the ship flown by Kylo Ren (although he has his own modified version known as the TIE Silencer). Easily identifiable by its long, pointed wings with cannons on the tips, the ship doesn't have much in the way of defensive capabilities. Its powerful blasters and incredible speed more than make up for those weak spots, however. You think Kylo Ren would fly something that wasn't badass?



TIE Fighter

This is the Empire and the First Order's most commonly used craft, and features a very distinctive sound: a high-pitched whoosh that any *Star Wars* fan would recognize with their eyes closed. The TIE (which stands for Twin Ion Engines) series is known for its quick, maneuverable fighters but it is also one of the most basic ships in the galaxy, just a cockpit with an engine and blaster cannons. Imperial pilots have to go through rigorous training to fly the fighters, and are usually considered the galaxy's most elite pilots.

Fly It Yourself

Authors of the book *Star Wars TIE Fighter: Owners' Workshop Manual* claim reading it will teach fans how to fly one of the ships.

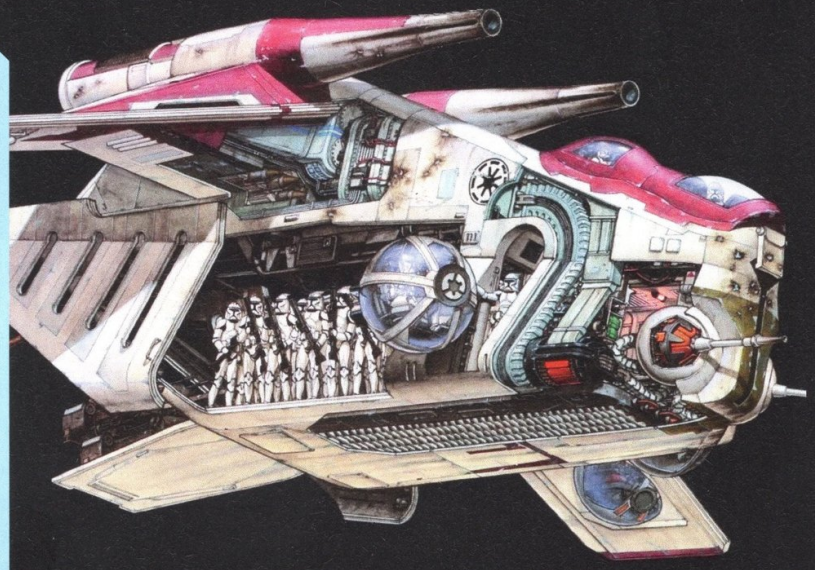
CR90 Corvette

Don't recognize this class of ship? That's understandable since it goes back as far as a *Star Wars* craft can. The Tantive IV, a primary member of the group, was the first ship to ever appear on screen in the franchise. Designed for diplomatic missions by Senate representatives from the planet Alderaan, as well as for blockade running, Princess Leia Organa made it famous by using it to help her deliver the Death Star plans to the Rebel Alliance after the Battle of Scarif.



LAAT Gunship

Used by the Grand Army of the Republic, the main purpose of the LAAT (Low Altitude Assault Transports) gunships was to transport clones, AT-ST and AT-TE walkers to the battlefield. They can carry up to 30 troops at one time, and because they're pressurized, they're also able to travel through space. Some variations of the craft's design have spotlights on the front instead of turrets to assist in night missions so...clearly, they're all about safety first.



Star Destroyer

This aptly named, dagger-shaped giant is as timeless as it gets. And no wonder. While the design has changed slightly over the past 40-plus years, it's still the only ship to show up in all three trilogies. These battle cruisers were originally utilized by the Galactic Republic before shifting into serving as Imperial craft and, eventually, becoming a part of the First and Final Order. Star Destroyers are now so iconic, it's pretty much impossible to hear the opening strains of "The Imperial March" without picturing one slowly creeping across the universe.

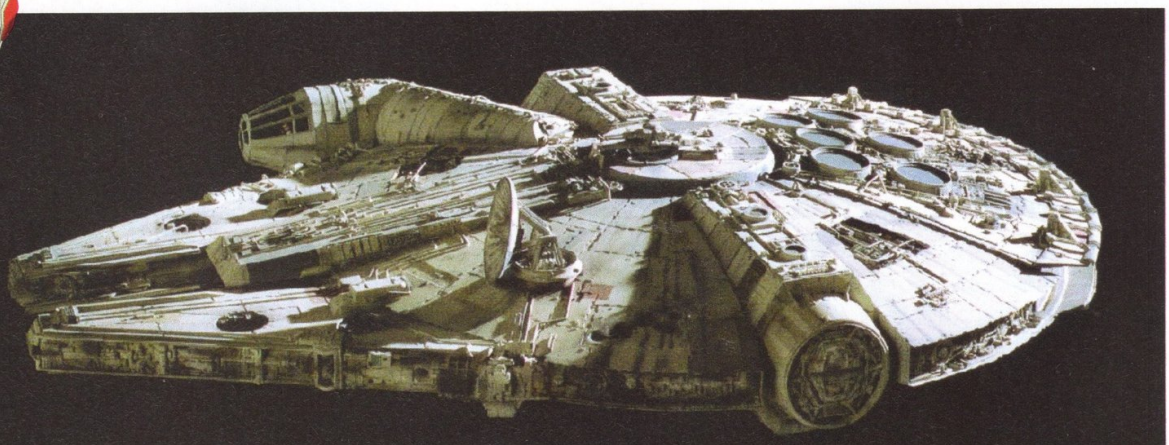


Something Special

According to cinematographer Richard Edlund, it took two years and $2.5 billion to finish the 365 special effects in *A New Hope*.



> "One of the reasons I started writing is that I wanted to see starships having exciting battles in space." GEORGE LUCAS



Corellian YT-1300 Light Freighter

Better known as the legendary *Millennium Falcon* and Han Solo's pride and joy, what more is there to say about it beyond what Han has already bragged about multiple times? Han modified his YT-1300 by adding plenty of firepower to his engines, turning what others refer to as a "hunk of junk" into arguably (and he will happily make the case) the most famous ship in the galaxy.

THE ULTIMATE ATTRACT



A *Falcon* First

The 100-foot-long *Millennium Falcon* sitting in the heart of Galaxy's Edge is the first full-size replica of the famous ship ever built.



ION

DISNEY'S GALAXY'S EDGE, AT BOTH OF ITS U.S. PARKS, ALLOWS *STAR WARS* FANS TO TRAVEL TO A FUN LAND FAR, FAR AWAY.

BY BRITTLEY GAAN

A long, long time ago—well, August 15, 2015, to be exact—at a convention not that far away, Disney executive chairman Bob Iger made every *Star Wars* fan's dream a reality. At that year's edition of Disney's D23 convention, he announced that the company wasn't just creating more shows and films for them to watch: Disneyland and Walt Disney World were creating a place for people to actually experience it: Galaxy's Edge.

This new land would be set on an entirely new planet, Batuu, that would let parkgoers feel like they'd landed in a strange locale filled with both fresh and familiar *Star Wars* sights, sounds and characters. The 14-acre project would be Disney's largest park expansion ever and would bring together the best and brightest Imagineers and Lucasfilm developers to come up with a setting called Black Spire Outpost.

As Iger promised in his initial announcement, "The land will be real and authentic and every encounter will bring more of the *Star Wars* story to life than ever before."

A Whole New World

Disney and Lucasfilm have a long history of bringing fans into the world of *Star Wars*. In 1987, long before the Mouse House's 2012 purchase of George Lucas' company, Disney Parks launched Star Tours. This virtual simulator sent visitors into hyperspace with fan favorite character Captain Rex. As the years went on, the experience expanded to include the *Star Wars* Launch Bay, where characters hung out with fans, and Trials of the Temple, where kids can "train" to be Jedis.

So when it came time to create this new land devoted to the famous franchise, designers at first wanted to use a planet people were familiar with, like snowy Hoth or Luke

Skywalker's desert home of Tatooine. Why ditch that plan? According to Disney Creative Director and Imagineer Scott Trowbridge in an interview with Blooloop, "The answer really is we know those places and we know those stories that happen there, and we know that we're not in them."

Thus Batuu—a planet where a new story could start and never stop—was born. Added Trowbridge, "Black Spire Outpost is an opportunity that's designed from the very get-go to be a place that invites exploration and discovery. A place that invites us to become a character in the world of *Star Wars* and lets us participate in the stories of *Star Wars*."

Taken for a Ride

If you're a die-hard *Star Wars* fan, nothing beats the feeling of seeing Han Solo's "hunk of junk" (aka the *Millennium Falcon*) at the center of Black Spire Outpost, ready to greet grateful guests. It's a stunning sight and gets visitors ready to "fly" the craft on the Smuggler's Run ride, which puts parkgoers in the cockpit. Each "ship" has two pilots, two gunners to shoot enemies and two engineers to repair the *Falcon* as it goes on a run led by a lesser-known character, Hondo Ohnaka, who "borrowed" it from Chewie.

Meanwhile, Rise of the Resistance is one of the most technologically advanced and immersive attractions Disney has ever created. Instead of just standing in line when they arrive, visitors interact with familiar characters like Rey, BB-8, Poe Dameron and Finn. Then, they find themselves behind enemy lines, where everyone becomes a Resistance recruit caught in a tractor beam and taken on board a First Order Star Destroyer. Luckily, they all "escape" on transport vehicles driven by a Resistance droid. (This portion runs on a trackless system, which previously only existed in Disney's international parks.) From this point on, everyone gets bombarded by laser bolts, witnesses Kylo Ren using the Force to control their vehicle and drives through full-scale AT-ATs. Finally, the last section of the ride involves an escape pod that leaves passengers feeling like they've been dropped into space.

> **"We wanted this to be both an homage to the past...but also a strong eye or a directional sign into the future."** BOB IGER

Home Toys

Galaxy's Edge isn't just an experience you leave behind when it's time to exit the park. It also has plenty of unique souvenirs—nearly 700 items—that you can take with you when you go home. Merchant Row has shops with all kinds of gifts for serious *Star Wars* fans and first-timers who just want a cool galactic souvenir. Two highlights: Savi's Workshop and Mubo's Droid Depot. Savi's lets warriors build their



When It All Begins

The world visitors encounter on a trip to Galaxy's Edge is set in the time period between *The Last Jedi* and *The Rise of Skywalker*.

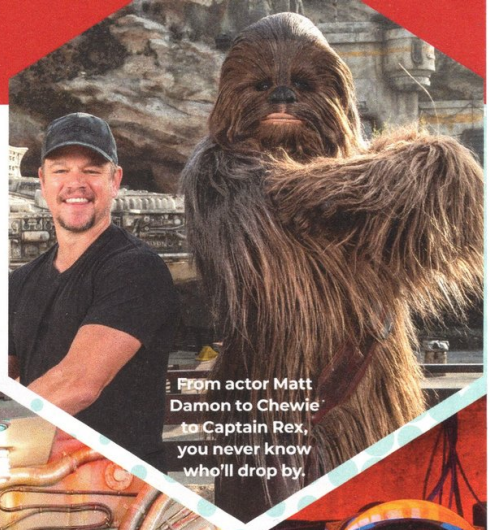
own lightsabers for around $200, while Mobo's offers nearly 280,000 possible combinations for making an R-series or BB-series droid.

Galaxy Delicacies

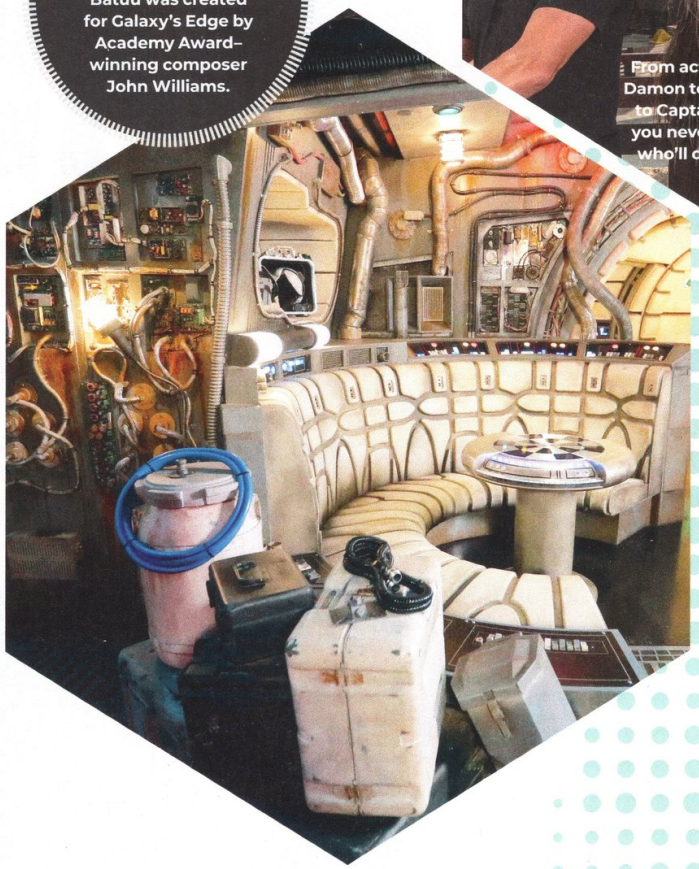
The Cantina is legendary in *Star Wars* lore. It's the place where we first heard the hothouse band and met Han Solo. Galaxy's Edge has not only re-created that ambience with Oga's Cantina, complete with original Star Tours host Captain Rex as the house DJ. It also lets travelers 21 years and older enjoy a Fuzzy Tautaun (peach vodka, peach schnapps and orange and tangerine juices) or a Jedi Mind Trick (grapefruit and rose vodka with juices that turn the booze blue). Another eatery, Docking Bay 7, has items like Batuuan Beef Pot Roast, Smoked Kaadu Pork Ribs and Fried Endorian Tip Yip (it's chicken). And *Star Wars*' famous blue and green milk (made from coconut and rice milk) is available at the milk stand.

Music to Visitors' Ears

The music played on Batuu was created for Galaxy's Edge by Academy Award–winning composer John Williams.



From actor Matt Damon to Chewie to Captain Rex, you never know who'll drop by.







How to Gain an Edge When Visiting Galaxy's Edge

Let's say for the sake of argument you're not a crazy rich billionaire who can hire a rocket to take you into the stars for an afternoon. Not to worry. Walt Disney World in Florida has come up with a way to give you the outer space experience without leaving Earth's orbit. Starting sometime in 2022, visitors to the resort can book two days on the Galactic Starcruiser, a hotel experience that is being billed as "part live immersive theater, part themed environment, part culinary extravaganza, part real-life role-playing game." Those who give it a try will literally get to create their own adventure, which will feature not only stays in rooms like the Galaxy Chess Suite and the Grand Captain Suite; it will also include meals at places like the Captain's Table and the Crown of Corellia Dining Room.

Disney has said that new and familiar characters will be around to interact with guests, who will be trained in lightsaber techniques and be given the opportunity to explore the bridge and go on a mission to the planet Batuu. There will apparently even be a chance to operate the Starcruiser's controls. While guests won't actually get to go into space, there is one astronomical piece of the experience: the prices. For a group of two, the cost will be roughly $4,800. A family of four can count on paying $6,000 or more.



COSMIC COUTURE

OUR PANEL DECIDES IF THE FASHION FORCE IS STRONG.

BY JENNA HARDS

Yes, some of *Star Wars*' most iconic characters are green, or gold or even furry. But in this wonderfully diverse universe, the clothing many of them wear has become just as well known—and often helps define the personality of the person...or creature. From the Jedi Order's flowing yet practical brown robes to the extravagant gowns of Queen Amidala, *Star Wars*' wardrobes reflect many different eras and cultures, creating a look unlike any other in film and television. With such a wide variety of outfits, we asked a cadre of fashion police (or fashion stormtroopers, perhaps?)—comedians Judy Gold and Tony Behinfar, as well as designers Dalia MacPhee and Tiffany Scott-Clemente—to weigh in with their thoughts on the good, the bad and the galactically ugly when it comes to *Star Wars* sartorial splendor.

The Experts



Judy Gold
A veteran actress/stand-up comedian, author of *Yes I Can Say That* and host of the podcast *Kill Me Now*. To learn more, you can go to judygold.com.



Dalia MacPhee
A fashion designer whose clothing has been worn by celebs like Serena Williams, Scarlett Johansson and Khloé Kardashian.



Tony Behinfar
A touring stand-up comedian whose debut comedy special, *Day Drinker*, can now be found on Amazon Prime, Spotify and Apple Music.



Tiffany Scott-Clemente
A classically trained designer and a wardrobe stylist who has worked with clients like Snoop Dogg and Sterling K. Brown.

> **"He (George Lucas) wanted the costumes to look real."**
>
> JOHN ROLLO, COSTUME DESIGNER, *A NEW HOPE* AND *RETURN OF THE JEDI*



Poe Dameron
Oscar Isaac
REBEL PILOT EXTRAORDINAIRE

"What is that scarf? Does he have the neck of a middle-aged woman? And who the hell has time to put on a scarf in the middle of an uprising?" **GOLD**

"This gentleman is confused. He's wondering where the art opening is and why someone's handed him a gun instead of champagne." **MACPHEE**

"The brown and tanned tones complete with matching scarf and gloves are perfect for blending in during The Festival of the Ancestors or hiding from pesky stormtroopers. Another victory for the resistance! " **BEHINFAR**

"Resistance fashion of the First Order. Badass with a touch of Italian flair and fit." **SCOTT-CLEMENTE**

Greedo
Paul Blake
THAT CREEPY CREATURE HAN SOLO SHOT

"Clothes make the what? Goes to show, fashion can improve anyone/any thing's image. On a side note, I have a COVID mask that's just like this." **MACPHEE**

"It really doesn't matter who shoots first when you're looking as good as Greedo does here! The radiant green, gold and tan colors mesh beautifully while assuring us that bounty hunter fashion has come a long way from the drab and bulky garb worn by the likes of Boba Fett." **BEHINFAR**

"Looks like the color of money has found a mascot." **SCOTT-CLEMENTE**

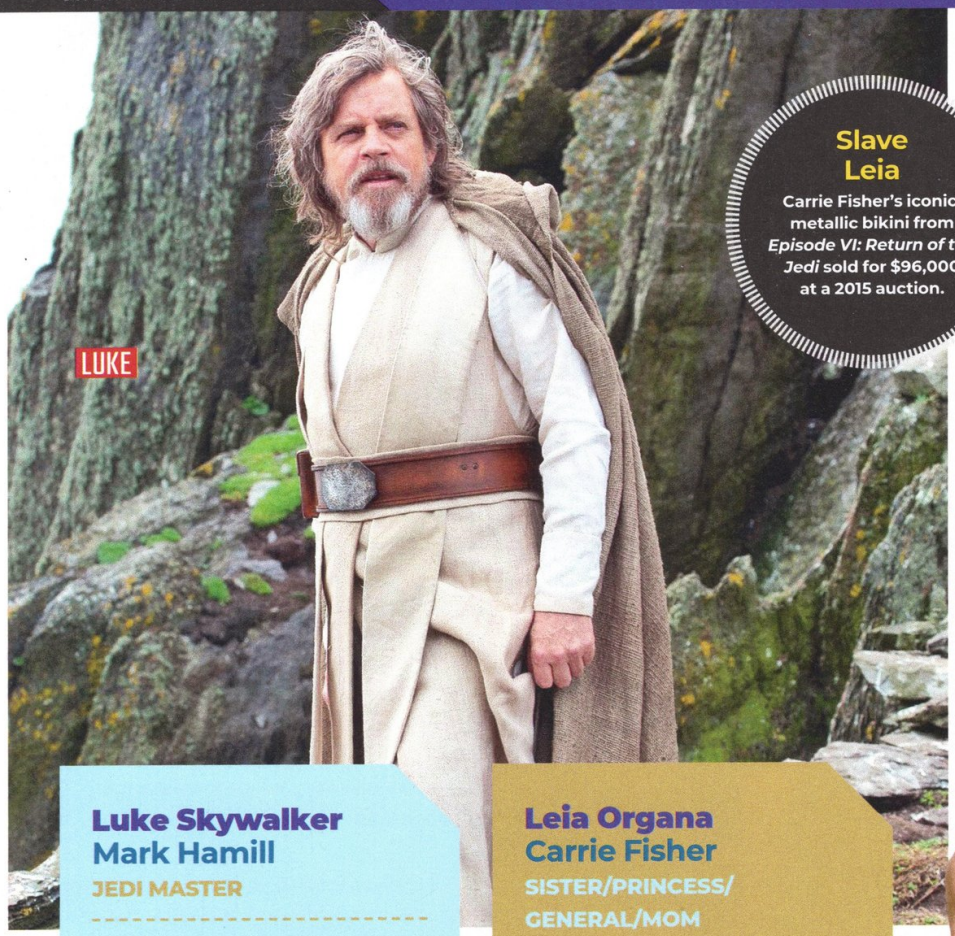
Lando Calrissian
Billy Dee Williams
GAMBLER, SMUGGLER AND FRIEND TO HAN AND CHEWIE

"Didn't I just see the Von Trapp family singers wearing the same drapes in *The Sound of Music*?" **GOLD**

"Studio 54 meets Halloween store. Cue scary disco music." **MACPHEE**

"Only someone with Mr. Calrissian's bravado can pull off an ocean blue cape with gold tinted inner lining. Whether he's smuggling cargo aboard the *Millennium Falcon* or leading his troops as a general in the resistance, Lando Calrissian is going to look good doing it!" **BEHINFAR**

"Maybe it's the pose but I keep expecting backup dancers to materialize." **SCOTT-CLEMENTE**



Slave Leia

Carrie Fisher's iconic, metallic bikini from *Episode VI: Return of the Jedi* sold for $96,000 at a 2015 auction.



Luke Skywalker
Mark Hamill
JEDI MASTER

"I think I have the same duvet cover on my bed. And is that the long-sleeve T-shirt he got at my son's bar mitzvah?" **GOLD**

"I call this 'homeless chic.' The polyester is wrinkle resistant, the cape doubles as a blankie." **MACPHEE**

"If I had to wear this ghastly and shamefully outdated pile of rags, I too would want to go into hiding on the most isolated planet in the galaxy. Master Skywalker, it's clear that Obi-Wan and Yoda have taught you everything they know. Unfortunately for you, sir, that includes their sense of fashion." **BEHINFAR**

"I really like this look. Function, fashion, comfort and protection. Everything a grandpa craves!" **SCOTT-CLEMENTE**

Leia Organa
Carrie Fisher
SISTER/PRINCESS/ GENERAL/MOM

"Tell me again how you can actually swim in that?" **GOLD**

"Thank goodness for that piece of modesty material! Sigh.... Women on all planets are still being objectified." **MACPHEE**

"What does it take to steal the heart of a cynical smuggler like Han Solo? The answer lies before us as our princess displays this exquisite royal gold bikini complete with a burgundy sun skirt. Leia, there is no reason to send for Obi-Wan Kenobi. For when it comes to true fashion sense, you, princess, are our only hope!" **BEHINFAR**

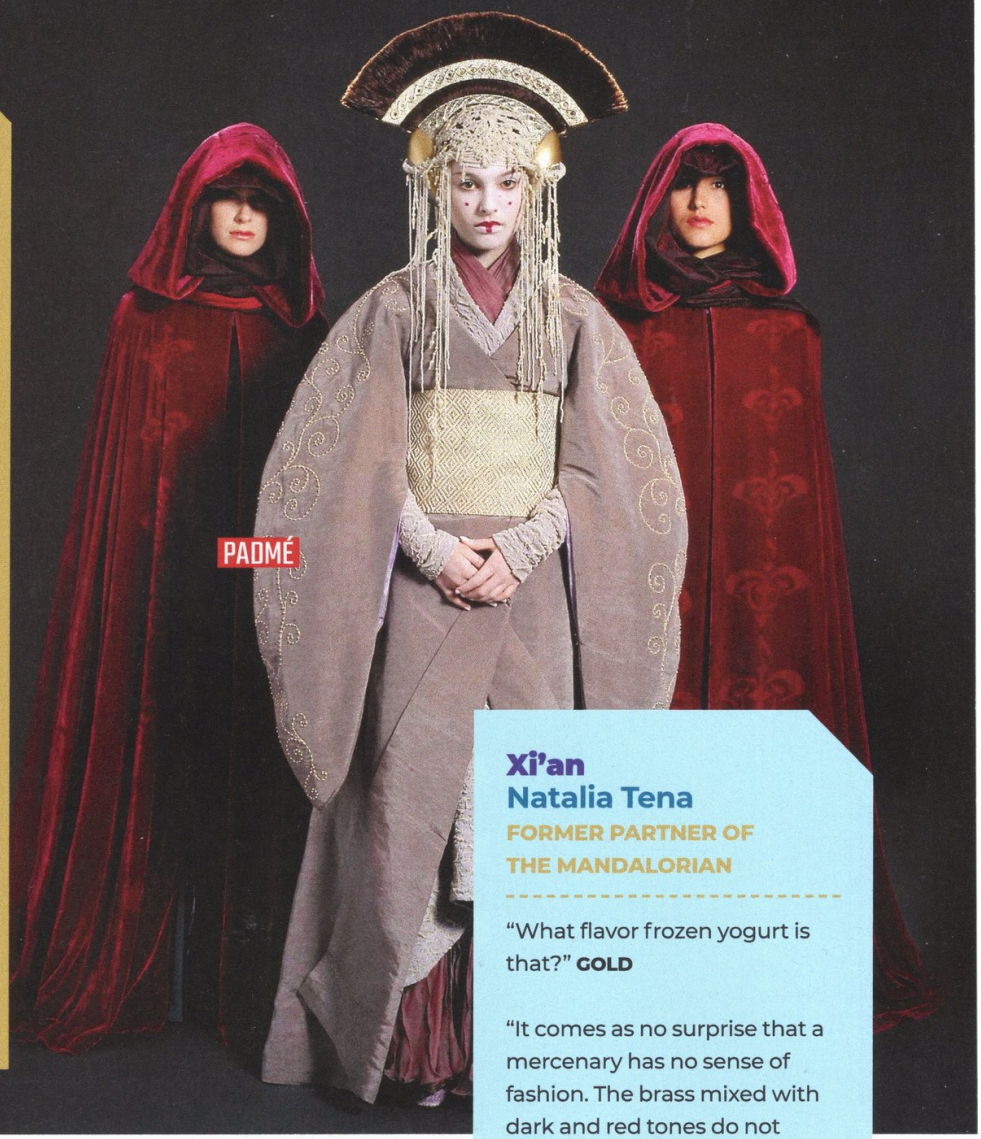
"Controversial? Yes! Fabulous? Yes! This is what all slugs fancy that their princess will wear!" **SCOTT-CLEMENTE**

Padmé Amidala
Natalie Portman
SENATOR/ANAKIN'S WIFE/ LUKE AND LEIA'S MOM

"Let's play 'guess which one of Charlie's Angels I am!' Talk about constantly reinventing yourself!" **GOLD**

"Outfit choice is so important as a leader. This leader is not using the restroom anytime soon and is seriously regretting that second cup of tea." **MACPHEE**

"When your résumé includes being Queen of Naboo and a Senator in the Galactic Republic you better have the ability to adapt. Padmè Amidala has that ability on full display here as she shows off her versatility in going from sassy warrior to classy royalty. Perhaps she should add the title of 'Fashionista' to that résumé!" **BEHINFAR**



Xi'an
Natalia Tena
FORMER PARTNER OF THE MANDALORIAN

"What flavor frozen yogurt is that?" **GOLD**

"It comes as no surprise that a mercenary has no sense of fashion. The brass mixed with dark and red tones do not match on this galaxy or any other no matter how far away." **BEHINFAR**

"I think she put her briefs on the wrong part of her body. They are for your nether regions, darling. Not your head!" **SCOTT-CLEMENTE**



Jannah
Naomi Ackie
FREEDOM FIGHTER/FIRST ORDER DESERTER

"It's no wonder she defected from her post as a stormtrooper. How can someone with such a keen eye for color and elegance be expected to wear those drab and depressing trooper uniforms?" **BEHINFAR**

"This warrior seems to like a bit of cape. Proof she's Lando's kid after all?" **SCOTT-CLEMENTE**



THE CUTTING EDGE

SHEDDING SOME LIGHT ON WHAT BECAME THE COOLEST WEAPON IN THE GALAXY.

BY JENNA HARDS



If all the creations George Lucas dreamed up for *Star Wars*, none has been quite as captivating as the lightsaber. The weapons—alternately referred to as "laser swords"—have long been the Jedi's primary weapon for peacekeeping as well as the inspiration for countless online fan videos and backyard battle reenactments. They are the futuristic version of King Arthur's Excalibur, as well as being a nod to the rapiers that cinematic swashbucklers like Errol Flynn used in classic films such as *The Adventures of Robin Hood*.

"Everything is of that genre, which is the fantasy-action-adventure kinds of films of that period of time in cinema," Lucas explained in the documentary short *The Birth of the Lightsaber*. "The whole premise of *Star Wars* was that it was a romantic fantasy in the great romantic traditions of mythology, the romantic side of fighting where there was chivalry and honor and that sort of thing. So, in developing a group of peacekeepers who were above everything and honorable, I needed a weapon that was appropriate for those kinds of Jedi."

At first, he wanted them to be used with two hands to show the amount of energy that, in theory, would be contained in each handle. (That, and the fact the weapon would have weighed in at around 40 or 50 pounds.) That idea changed, however, when Lucas and his fellow producers realized it would slow the action down when what they really needed was swifter saber battles.

To film the legendary fights, actors in the early days wielded sticks or poles with reflective tape, and technology known as Rotoscope was eventually used to create the glowing energy that audiences came to know and love. (Later, special effects became so sophisticated that entire weapons were added in post-production.) As for the familiar dangerous buzz and crackle, that idea came from the film's sound designer, Ben Burtt, who created it after listening to the hum of a screening-room projector and a buzz emanating from an old cathode-ray TV.

The Rise of the Lightsaber

One of the most important aspects of these timeless swords and how they would be used, according to Lucas, was their cultural significance. In the original trilogy, the Jedi have been almost entirely wiped out and Luke Skywalker clearly lacks the saber training that Jedi in the past had been given. Comments from characters

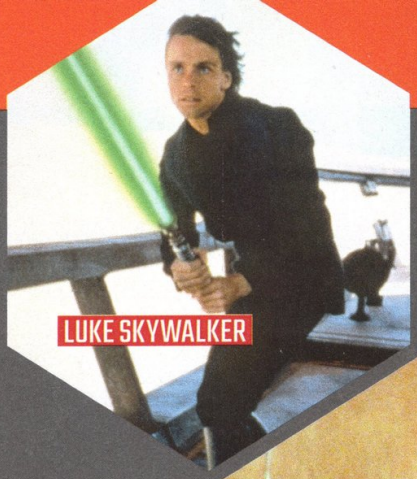


Laser Focused

In early drafts of what would become *A New Hope*, George Lucas used the term "lazersword" for his new weapon rather than "lightsaber."

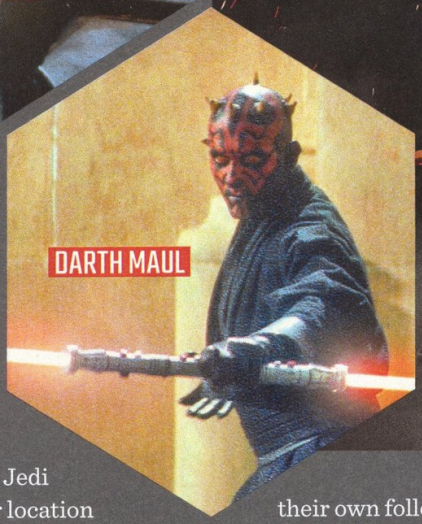
like Han Solo ("Hokey religions and ancient weapons are no match for a good blaster at your side, kid!") make it clear that the weapon is rare and not as respected as it once was.

Lightsabers were originally used long before the formation of the Republic, when the Jedi Order was created to serve as intergalactic peacekeepers. The famous sword began as something called a Proto-Saber, which featured two physical prongs that, when turned on, allowed energy to surge up and complete the blade. Over time, that saber developed into the glowing plasma blade used by the galaxy's Force-sensitive individuals. The Jedi Order of the late Galactic Republic made use of four styles of saber. The first two focused on Duty and Resolve, and Peace and Wisdom, and were characterized by simplistic designs and need-based additions. The other two styles were Elemental Nature and Valor and Wisdom. These tended to take notes from the natural world around them as their sabers were comprised of such materials in order to evoke a greater link to the Force.



LUKE SKYWALKER





DARTH MAUL

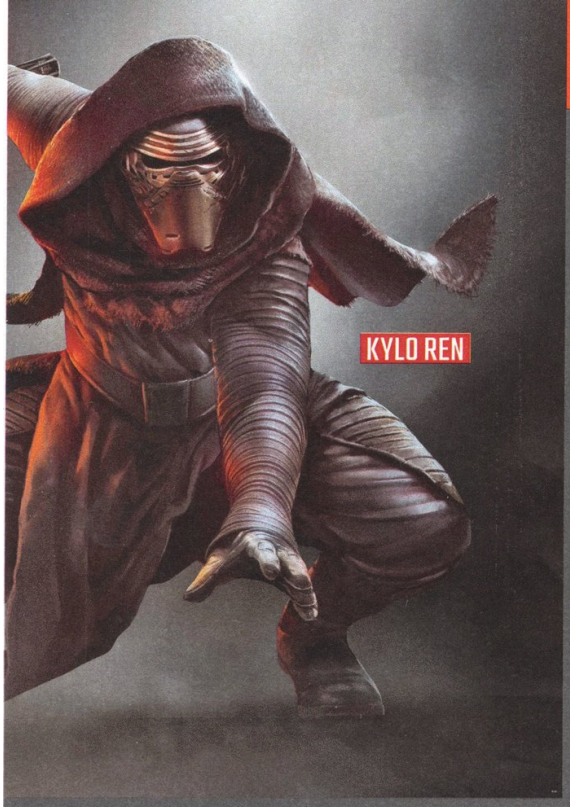
Crystal Clear

According to early lightsaber history, the weapons were built from Kyber crystals. Little is known about them, however, due to the Jedi Order keeping their location and use a secret from outsiders. One thing is clear: The crystals are rare. Part organic and part inorganic, they have been discovered in what are known as "kyberite veins." Jedi use these crystals to focus the energy of their sabers. They'd previously been worshipped by primitive societies, but the Jedi made them exclusive to their own following. The crystals are Force-attuned, although Jedi are still required to meditate with the crystal for several days before placing them inside their lightsaber. When picking a crystal for a weapon, Jedi rely on "Force pulls" that allow them to feel when one truly resonates with them. Meanwhile, their nemeses the Sith rely on synthetic crystals.



One Big Battle

For this legendary saber fight in *Attack of the Clones*, producers used more than 100 fighters from Australian sword clubs to play Jedi.



Color Them Courageous

One of the few things we know for certain about the Kyber crystals is that their color was reflective of a Jedi's class. Blue meant the wielder was a Jedi guardian, focused on a physical relationship with the Force. Green meant the swordsperson was a Jedi consular and possessed a focus on the moral and emotional aspects of the Force. Meanwhile, the color yellow, which isn't seen in the movies but does exist in the expanded universe, was for a Jedi sentinel who concentrated on skills in combat or academic pursuit. Although each weapon is similar, there are variations depending on who is wielding them. Here's a look at some of the more distinctive sabers used by well-known warriors:

Yoda

His shimmering green cutlass has a shorter-than-average hilt and blade because, well, look at him. Judge the size of his sword by his size, you can.

Qui-Gon Jinn

This Jedi guardian's blade handle makes prime use of the traditional Jedi styles but rather than include blue-focusing Kyber crystals, he chose to go green.

Count Dooku

Built for combat, especially in the Clone Wars, the saber belonging to this Sith lord (aka. Darth Tyranus) features a curved hilt and a crystal for a red blade. It's a weapon he no doubt enjoys wielding, right up until Anakin Skywalker uses it to lop off his head.

Darth Maul

In *Episode 1: The Phantom Menace*, audiences got to experience a rare double-bladed saber, glowing bright Sith red, courtesy of the dastardly Darth. (It showed up again in the hands of Asajj Ventress in *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*.)

Kylo Ren

His cross-style design comes from using an unstable Kyber crystal. Although the blade is red, it was originally blue during his pre-dark side days as Ben Solo.

Luke Skywalker

A deleted scene from *Return of the Jedi* revealed Luke himself created his green saber, using a synthetic crystal due to the lack of natural crystals on Tatooine (thus explaining the switch from the blue saber Obi-Wan Kenobi had gifted him).

Obi-Wan Kenobi

This Jedi master actually went through three different lightsabers throughout his life. Originally modeled after his master Qui-Gon Jinn's weapon, each one continued to feature his trademark blue blades.

Mace Windu

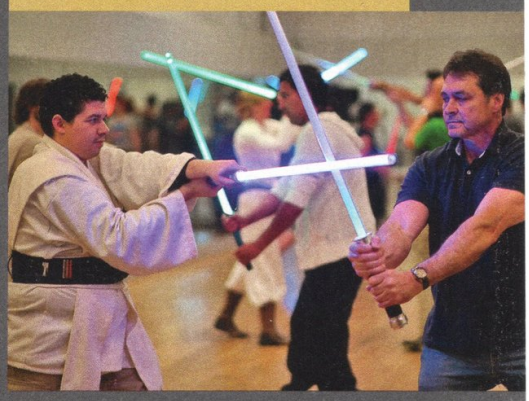
He fought with an iconic purple saber, built after he was appointed to the Jedi High Council. It's believed to represent moral ambiguity. Samuel L. Jackson, who played Mace, reportedly requested he get the unique color. (As well as having the phrase "Bad Motherf---er" engraved on it.)

Get That Jedi Glow

Sword fighters have turned *Star Wars*' saber battles into a real-life sport.

The fictional glow of *Star Wars* lightsabers has sparked a phenomenon in real life. In 2019, the French Fencing Federation declared saber battling a competitive sport, which could put it on a path to the Olympics. It's become popular around the globe, featuring a mix of traditional fencing and Japanese-based martial arts. Handbooks and lessons are available, teaching first-time fighters how to stand, attack, defend and deflect using both the blade and their footwork.

There are, of course, some Earthly adjustments. Instead of using Kyber crystals and plasma blades, these sabers are made from aluminum and polycarbonate. Matches typically consist of three rounds, and touch-scores are tallied by a panel of three judges, along with a final judge who determines the winner. Competitors are required to wear protective gear beyond the Force, and yes, some do show up for battle in Jedi-like costumes.



PLAYING GAMES

MOVIES AND SHOWS AREN'T THE ONLY WAYS TO ENJOY THE BEST OF THE *STAR WARS* EXPANDED UNIVERSE.

BY ROMAN TOMASHOFF

Causing Controversy

After its 2017 release, Star Wars Battlefront II drew fire because it had a feature where players could spend money to advance levels.





Let's face it. As much as we'd all like to be transported to a galaxy far, far away to strike down some Sith with our lightsaber before stealing away in our star cruiser to save the rest of the rebels, we're never going to be Jedi. We're never going to party with Ewoks or grab a drink at the Mos Eisley cantina. Still, this doesn't mean *Star Wars* fans can't get a feel for what it's like to jump into the helmet of a cool clone or the cockpit of a powerful ship. That's what video games are for. And there's more than enough of them to bring to life every corner of the *Star Wars* Expanded Universe. The franchise has been turning out video games going all the way back to 1982, with the release of an Empire Strikes Back game for Atari 2600 that allowed players to fly a snow speeder in the Battle of Hoth. There have been dozens more since then, featuring increasingly realistic adventures for fans seeking the true *Star Wars* experience. Ready for action? Here's a look at five games that are truly the next best thing to battling alongside Luke and Leia or soaring the stratosphere with Han and Chewie.

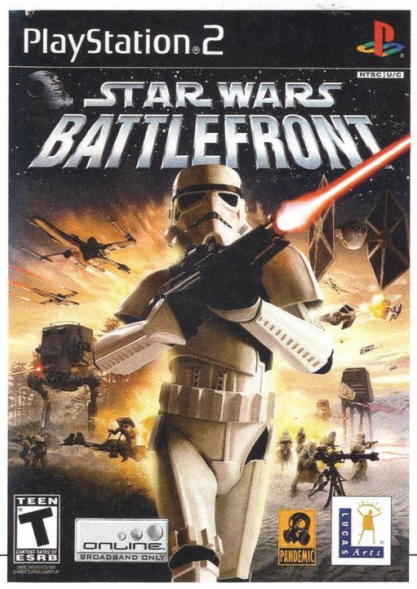
A Hidden Hero

***Star Wars* fans were surprised (in a good way) to discover that Fallen Order featured a secret room where players could find Yoda.**

> **"We just need the time to step back and really absorb what George (Lucas) has created."** KATHLEEN KENNEDY

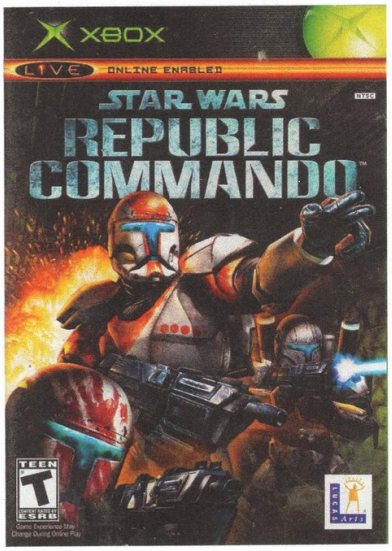
Star Wars Battlefront II

The original version of Battlefront II is one of the most popular games played on both the original Xbox and the PlayStation 2, and for good reason. There are multiple modes, including an immersive campaign covering the Clone Wars and the rise of the Empire; online and local multiplayer controls; and Galactic Conquest mode, where players can battle against the computer or another competitor for control of the galaxy. Perhaps the most popular parts of the original Battlefront series, though? The amazing space battles, where gamers can have total control over their favorite type of starfighter. For an extra thrill, players can fire up their old PS2 or Xbox and play in Assault mode on Mos Eisley for a Heroes vs. Villains battle (those early versions were the first to let players fight as classic characters like Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, General Grievous and Darth Vader).



Star Wars Jedi Fallen Order

This single-player game allows gamers to go on an adventure as former Jedi Padawan Cal Kestis, a previously unknown character making his first appearance as part of the *Star Wars* Expanded Universe. The Fallen Order experience is a graphic masterpiece, exploring new



worlds like Nur, Zeffo, Bogano and Bracca. The game allows players the chance to build a personalized lightsaber as they find new pieces for it around the map while fighting the Empire with a loyal crew and an adorable droid sidekick, BD-1. The core mission here is to find a Jedi holocron hidden by Jedi master Eno Cordova. The holocron, the device in which Jedi store their most sensitive information, contains a list of Force-sensitive children across the galaxy. Along the way, competitors battle stormtroopers, Imperial Inquisitors (Force-sensitives trained in the ways of the Sith), rogue Jedi and even Darth Vader himself.

Star Wars Republic Commando

Clone Commandos are the most elite troopers in the Grand Army of the Republic, and this game allows players to get inside the helmet of the group's leader, Boss from Delta Squad, to master tasks that no ordinary clone can complete. Widely regarded by hard-core fans as one of the toughest *Star Wars* games to play, it features three particularly long, unusually challenging missions. Gamers go up against Geonosian leaders during the Battle of Geonosis, getting the chance to clear out a destroyed Republic Star Destroyer in order to rescue the Wookie leader Tarrful from a droid army on Kashyyyk. Although it was only produced for the original Xbox and PC, serious gamers can still buy it from online outlets like the Microsoft Store and add it to their Xbox One hard drive.

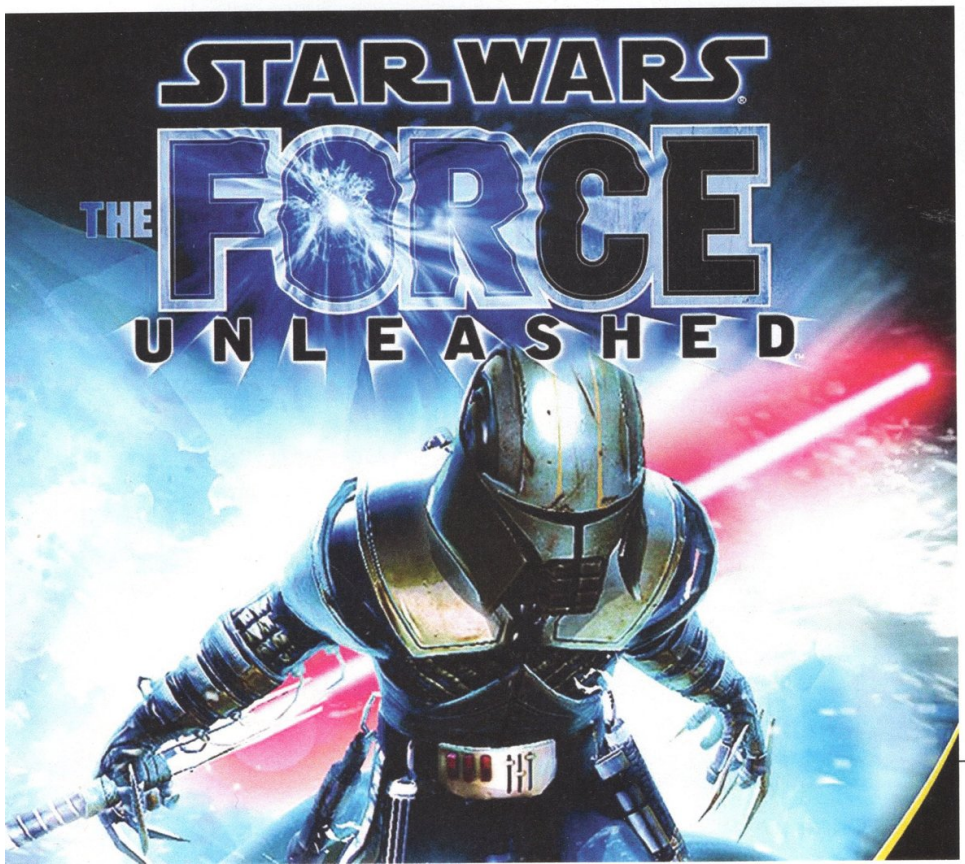


Going Big

When the new Lego Star Wars game, The Skywalker Saga, arrives in 2022, it will reportedly feature nearly 500 characters.

Star Wars The Force Unleashed

The story of Darth Vader is pretty familiar at this point, but this game takes a different approach by following Luke's dad's secret apprentice, Galen Marek. Players can embrace their dark side by battling rogue Jedi, Rebellion generals and a giant garbage monster at the behest of their master. They can also unleash a huge amount of Force powers on their foes, most of which are unseen anywhere else in the *Star Wars* Expanded Universe. It's worth noting that a second installment of this popular game, The Force Unleashed II, was produced in 2009, immersing gamers in the story of Starkiller, a clone of Marek, who was killed at the end of the first game. The sequel also gives the main character a lot more freedom after he escapes from Vader and begins fighting against the Empire.



Lego Star Wars The Complete Saga

It never hurts to turn to the lighter side of *Star Wars*, which makes this somewhat silly take on the franchise well worth playing. This game is a combo of Lego Star Wars: The Video

Game and Lego Star Wars II: The Original trilogy (Lego Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga, which will include all three movie trilogies, is coming in 2022) and users can play as one of more than 120 different characters. But don't be fooled into thinking this game is just for kids. Sure, it lets younger players relive favorite movie scenes Lego-style, but it also mixes in plenty of humor for all ages (for instance, when Darth makes his big reveal to Luke, he doesn't say, "I'm your father"—he just holds up a picture of him with Padmé).

Cinematic Surprise

The unexpected twists revealed in the Knights of the Old Republic game were inspired by two films—*The Sixth Sense* and *Fight Club*.



Does the Future of *Star Wars* Lie in the Past?

A fan-favorite video game could be where the franchise is heading.

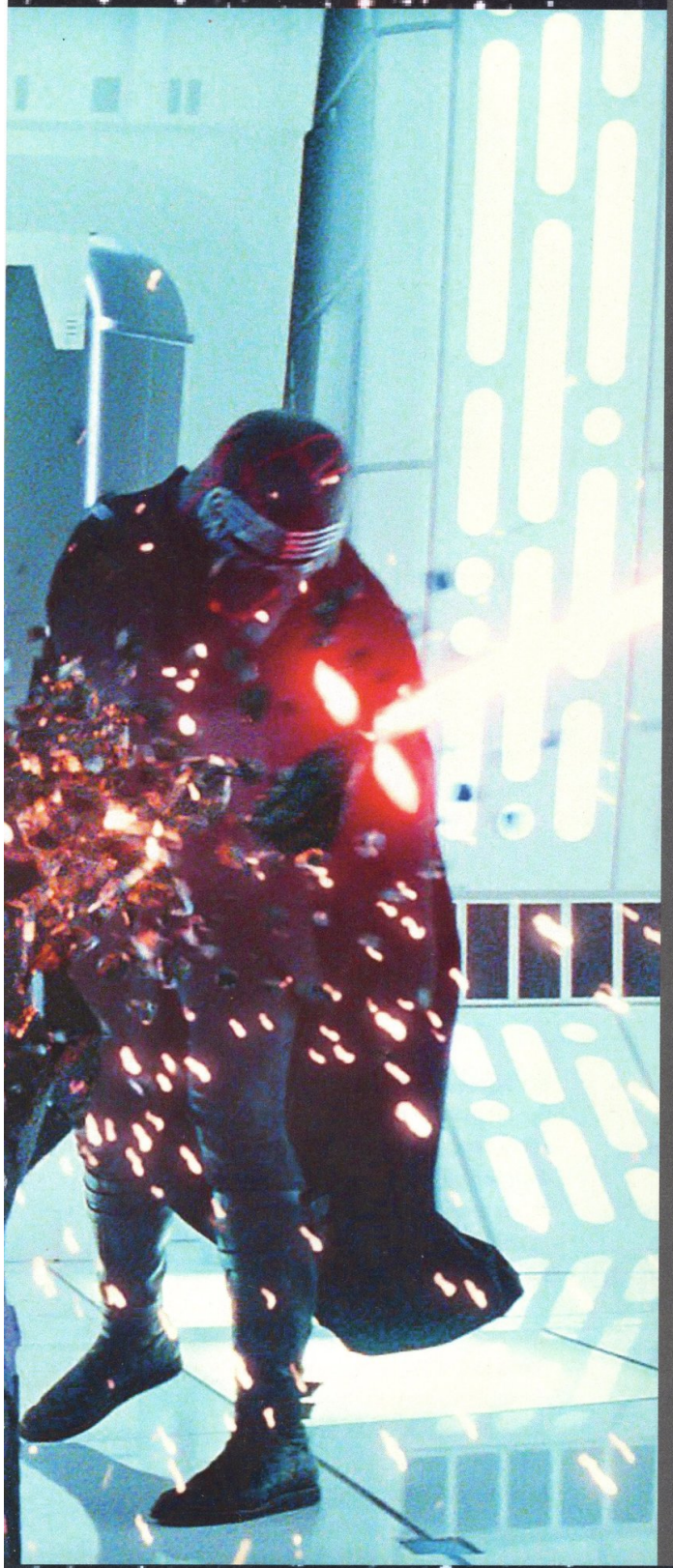
With 2019's *Episode IX: The Rise of Skywalker* bringing one phase of the *Star Wars* film saga to a close, it's time to speculate about what's next. And that future could be a project based on one of the franchise's most beloved video games, Knights of the Old Republic. According to Buzzfeed News, writer Laeta Kalogridis (*Shutter Island*) is working on a film based on the 2003 game. Word is it includes the Old Republic's legendary Jedi Bastila Shan, setting the stage for an expansion into a part of the *Star Wars* Expanded Universe that's been unexplored outside of books and video games. The events of Knights of the Old Republic take place roughly 4,000 years before the nine feature films and offer plenty of new characters for fans to delve into, like Sith Lord Darth Malak. Details of the script are top secret, but Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy told The Wrap this past may be *Star Wars*' future: "Stories have been told within this universe over the last 40-odd years and there's now the realization that this is a mythology that actually spans about 25,000 years."

SHRINK RAP

WE PUT SOME OF *STAR WARS'* MOST COMPLEX CHARACTERS ON THE COUCH. BY BRITTLEY GAAN



It's filled our imaginations with classic tales of wise old aliens, rogue bounty hunters, sassy princesses, super-smart robots and rebellious teens. Characters in the *Star Wars* saga have become our heroes, and we feel like we know everything there is to know about them. But...do we really? What problems are they hiding from everyone as well as themselves? We talked to a few experts in psychology who have put some of the most popular (and possibly most troubled) *Star Wars* characters on the couch in order to dig into their relationships and find out what's really going on with them. Here's their analysis:



The Experts



Judy Ho, PhD
Certified licensed clinical and forensic neuropsychologist, and co-host of the TV series *The Doctors*



Janina Scarlet, PhD
Psychologist and creator of Superhero Therapy, which uses geek culture for "evidence-based therapy"



Travis Langley, PhD
Author of more than a dozen books, including *Star Wars Psychology: Dark Side of the Mind*



Jenna Busch
Founder/Editor-in-Chief, *Legion of Leia* podcast

Kylo Ren & Rey

DR. SCARLET "Anger has been Kylo Ren's shield for hiding the trauma of not being around his parents. Han and Leia abandoned him, so there was no love and warmth and compassion growing up. He didn't get to feel special so all of that will naturally pull him to the dark side. Abandonment was also part of Rey's story and she does believe people are likely to leave her and not return. That's why having a group of friends—the rebels—who won't abandon her gives her the sense of belonging she's wanted since she was little."

DR. LANGLEY "A number of people suggest that Kylo has Borderline Personality Disorder because of how chaotic he is. Of course, he may just be really immature. He needs to find somebody else that he can convince to agree with his point of view when he keeps finding out that other people don't see the world the way he does. That frustrates him. So he's focusing on Rey as someone to have some hope in."

DR. HO "He chose to be Kylo Ren. It made him feel very powerful to be aligned with the dark side but it's all very selfish, as opposed to being something that can help serve other people. Rey, meanwhile, is one of those people who has to do things to be loved: 'I have to keep being a hero and then people will love me.' That's why her relationship with Ben Solo was so complicated. She sees what she could have become very easily if she'd just let go."



Jedi Jargon

Yoda's unusual object-subject-verb speech pattern is prevalent in more than half of the 2,000 modern languages currently used around the world.

Yoda & Everybody

BUSCH "He was a great teacher later in life. He did wonderful things for Luke, but he made big mistakes with Anakin. Still, we do not insult Yoda in my house! He's not human but he's a being trying to live in the universe and do things to make the world better."

DR. SCARLET "My interpretation is that Yoda was very concerned and scared to the extent that Jedis allow themselves to feel concerned and scared. He was doing everything he could to keep everyone safe. Some people are like that: When they are worried for others and are in that leadership role, they become very anxious and Type A. They micromanage people and every action intended to keep others safe can be a misstep—like with Anakin, where Yoda's behavior pushed him to Palpatine."

DR. LANGLEY "Sometimes the smartest person can be the most easily fooled because he or she is accustomed to being smart and fails to notice his or her weak points. And, of course, Yoda would want to be tuned in with his own weak points of sorts. However, it's hard when everybody else around him is repeatedly wrong compared to him. In that case, it can be very difficult to see one's own shortcomings."

DR. HO "There is the possibility he has a low IQ and that's why it's difficult for him to speak in a speech pattern that would be understandable. He's a man of very few words because there was not much going on upstairs."

C-3PO & R2-D2

DR. LANGLEY "They both have self-awareness. They have opinions. They have feelings. Or are they just simulating them well? Ultimately, we can never answer that. We just know they've been together a long time and are accustomed to each other at this point. You can just look at them and see 3PO as effectively being married to R2, but does R2 think that way?"

DR. HO "R2 is the only psychologically healthy character in the entire universe, showing the love and attachment of someone who is healthy. C-3PO has this very obsessive-compulsive personality, where everything has to be perfect....Everyone treated him badly. They were like, 'Go away!'"

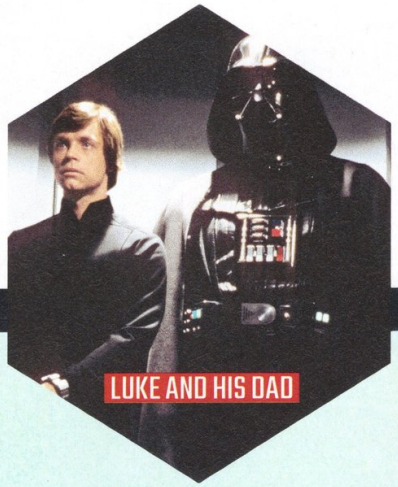
BUSCH "I see them more like the Odd Couple than anything else. They bitch about each other, but they're completely ride-or-die friends. In a non-warring Republic, I totally see R2 in a cantina getting texts all night from 3PO about turning in early and not flirting with the local droids."

Luke Skywalker & Darth Vader/ Anakin Skywalker

BUSCH "Anakin had more mommy issues than daddy issues since he didn't have one. Maybe mommy shouldn't have spent his childhood telling people about her immaculate conception."

DR. SCARLET "These characters show the difference between nature and nurture. Luke grew up with an aunt and uncle till he was in his teens, so he had a loving and nurturing family. Anakin grew up in slavery and was ripped away from his own mother, who then died really violently. He never got a chance to process his rage."

DR. LANGLEY "Anakin shows you can have somebody who is incredibly empathetic when younger and then goes through changes where he seems like a psychopath, shutting down those positive qualities because there's something he wants....Then Luke became Darth Vader's new hope. When Darth finds out that the guy who blew up the Death Star was his son, he thinks, 'We can bring order to the galaxy.' Meanwhile, Luke is the one who had hope in people. So he had hope in his father and saw past that dark surface. And his hope was what won the day."



LUKE AND HIS DAD



Anthony Daniels (C-3PO) has said of Kenny Baker, who played R2-D2 , "I never saw him...he might as well be a bucket."



A Serious Daddy Issue

A 2009 *Guardian* newspaper poll found that Darth Vader's "Luke, I am your father" is the most memorable movie misquote of all time.

When you first think of *Star Wars*, it's totally understandable that visuals are what immediately pop into your head: images of oddball aliens, fantastic spaceships and epic saber fights. After all, no movie series has managed to look the way this one has. However, few have also ever managed to sound like it, either. As any real fan (and, honestly, non-fan) has learned, the franchise has come to represent some of the sharpest dialogue in cinema. Whether the lines were funny or philosophical, *Star Wars* hasn't just been a bunch of movies and shows. Its multitude of clever sayings are T-shirts waiting to happen. We all know what is being referred to when we hear "do or do not, there is no try." With that in mind, here are some of the more memorable and moving lines that have stuck with us throughout *Star Wars*' history.

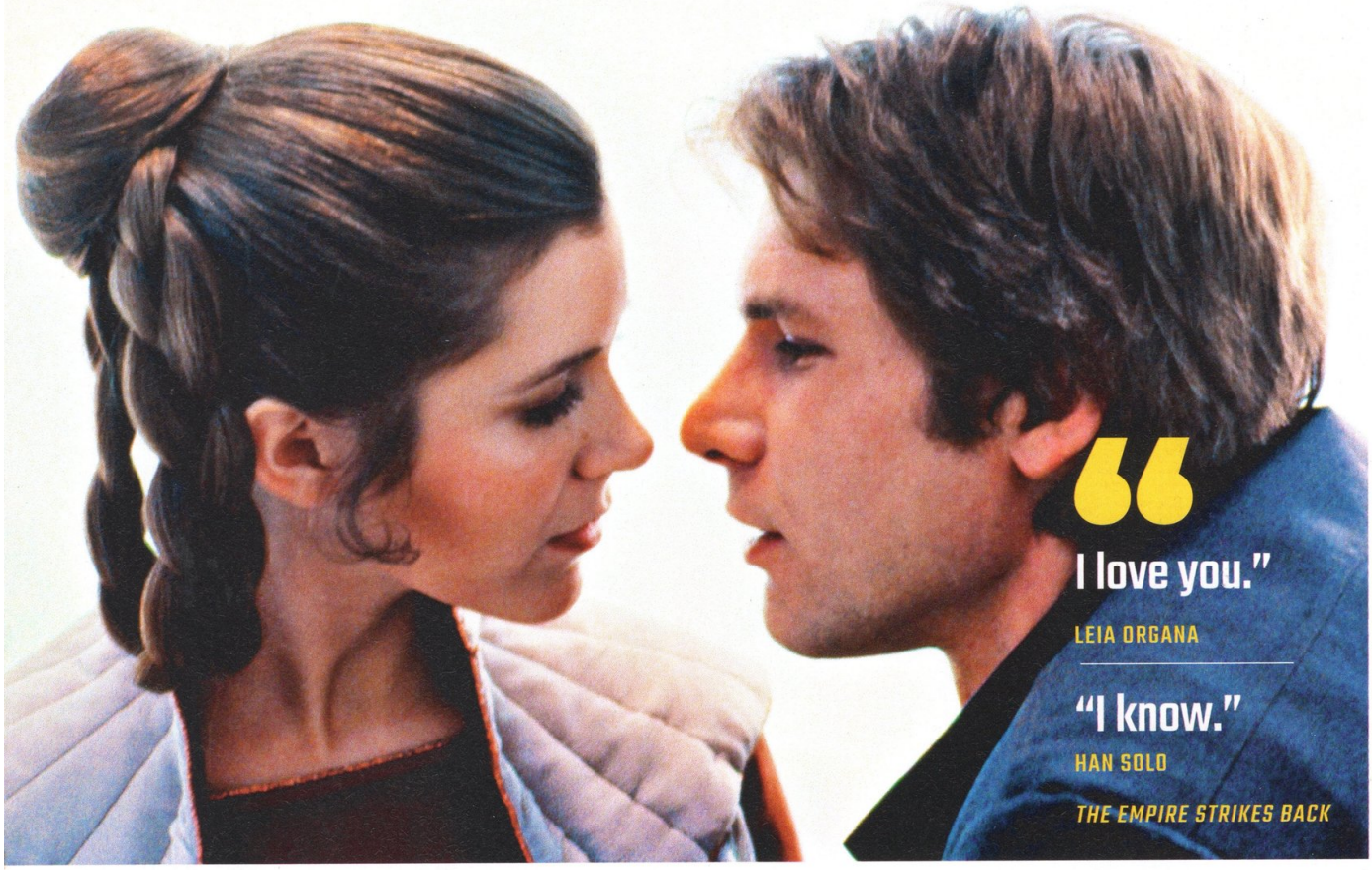
"I've got a bad feeling about this."

SOMEONE IN EVERY *STAR WARS* MOVIE

THESE ARE THE QUOTES YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

WELCOME TO THE WORDS, THE WIT AND THE WISDOM OF THE *STAR WARS* UNIVERSE.





"Never tell me the odds!"
HAN SOLO, *THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK*

"It's the ship that made the Kessel Run in less than 12 parsecs."
HAN SOLO, *A NEW HOPE*

"Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi. You're my only hope!"
LEIA ORGANA, *A NEW HOPE*

"There are things that you cannot solve by jumping in an X-wing and blowing something up."
LEIA ORGANA, *THE LAST JEDI*

"No matter how much we fought, I've always hated watching you leave."
LEIA ORGANA, *THE FORCE AWAKENS*

"No, I am your father."
DARTH VADER, *THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK*

"I find your lack of faith disturbing."
DARTH VADER, *A NEW HOPE*

"I don't like sand. It's coarse and rough and irritating and it gets everywhere. Not like here. Here everything is soft and smooth."
ANAKIN SKYWALKER, *ATTACK OF THE CLONES*

"Judge me by my size, do you?"
YODA, *THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK*

"Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering."
YODA, *THE PHANTOM MENACE*

"Luminous beings are we, not this crude matter."
YODA, *THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK*

"When 900 years old you reach, look as good you will not!"
YODA, *RETURN OF THE JEDI*

"I suggest a new strategy—let the Wookie win!"
C-3PO, *A NEW HOPE*

"Stop taking my hand!"
REY, *THE FORCE AWAKENS*

"You underestimate Skywalker and Ben Solo and me. It will be your downfall."
REY, *THE LAST JEDI*

"I'm Rey...Rey Skywalker."
REY, *THE RISE OF SKYWALKER*

"The Force brought us here. It's real. I wasn't sure then but I am now."
FINN, *THE RISE OF SKYWALKER*

"There's always a bigger fish."
QUI-GON JINN, *THE PHANTOM MENACE*

"It's a trap!"
ADMIRAL ACKBAR, *RETURN OF THE JEDI*

"You can't stop the change any more than you can stop the suns from setting."
SHMI SKYWALKER, *THE PHANTOM MENACE*

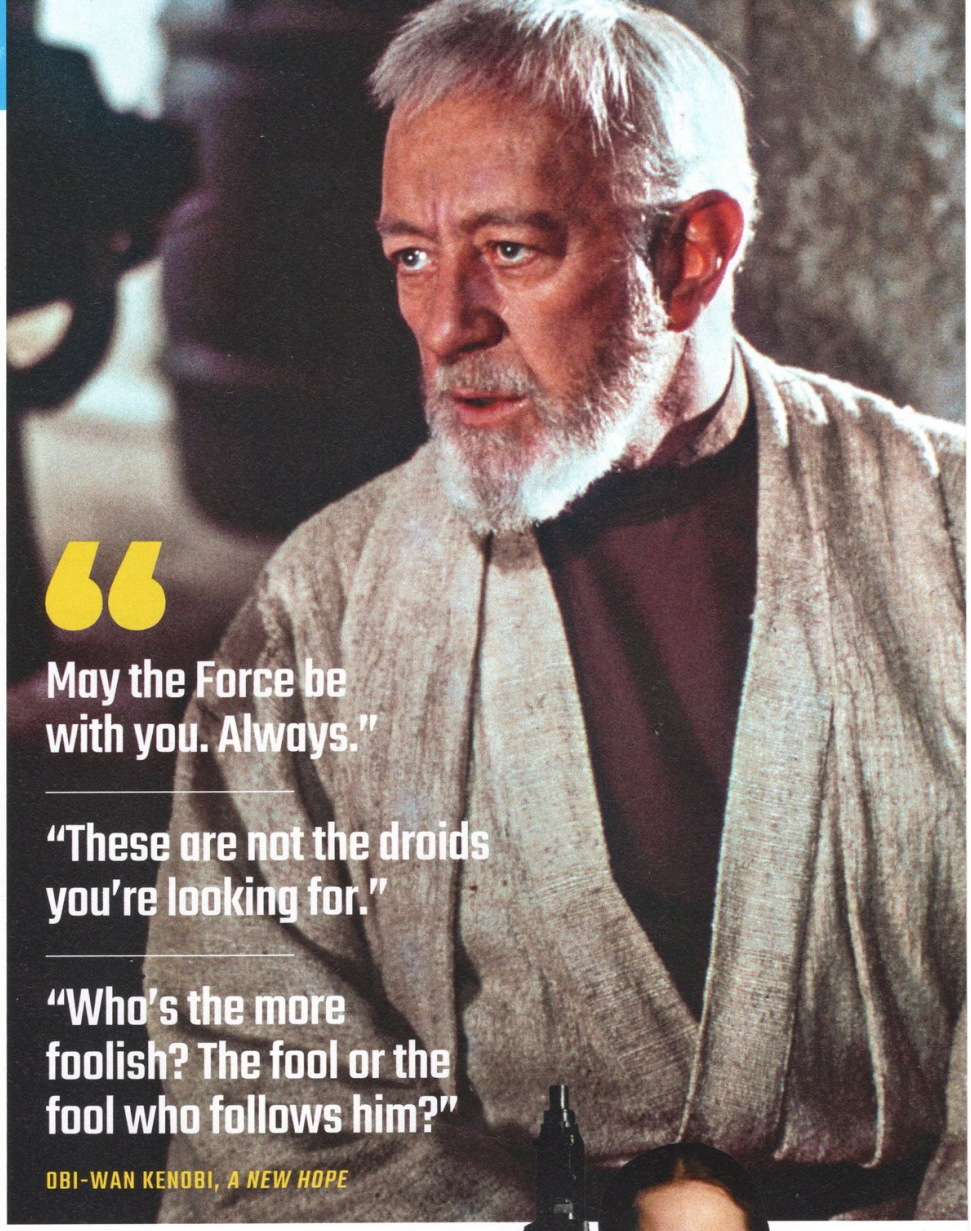
"We must keep our faith in the Republic. The day we stop believing democracy can work is the day we lose it."
QUEEN JAMILLIA, *ATTACK OF THE CLONES*

"I'm just a simple man trying to make my way in the universe."
JANGO FETT, *ATTACK OF THE CLONES*

"There is a great disturbance in the Force."
EMPEROR PALPATINE, *THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK*

"The dark side of the Force is a pathway to many abilities some consider to be unnatural."
SUPREME CHANCELLOR PALPATINE, *REVENGE OF THE SITH* AND *THE RISE OF SKYWALKER*

"We're not alone. Good people will fight if we lead them."
POE DAMERON, *THE RISE OF SKYWALKER*



"May the Force be with you. Always."

"These are not the droids you're looking for."

"Who's the more foolish? The fool or the fool who follows him?"
OBI-WAN KENOBI, *A NEW HOPE*

"I'm one with the Force. The Force is with me."
CHIRRUT IMWE, *ROGUE ONE, A STAR WARS STORY*

"You rebel scum!"
IMPERIAL OFFICER RENZ, *RETURN OF THE JEDI*

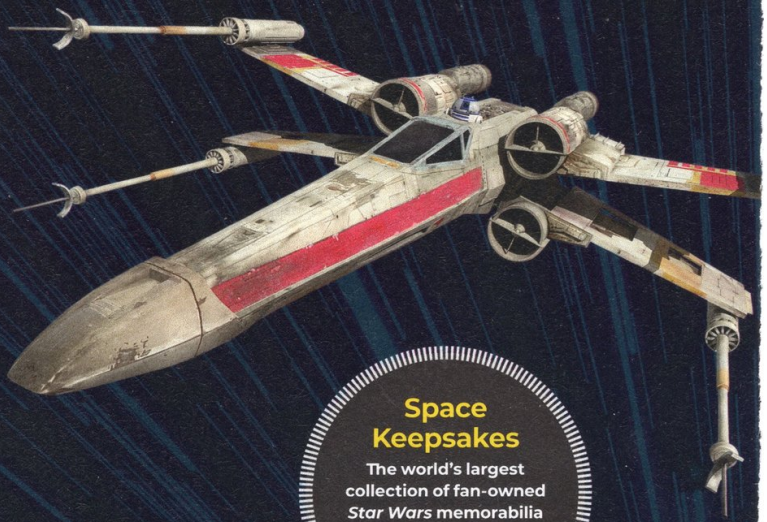
"Yeah, I'm responsible these days. It's the price you pay for being successful."
LANDO CALRISSIAN, *THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK*



"So this is how liberty dies...with thunderous applause."
PADMÉ AMIDALA, *REVENGE OF THE SITH*

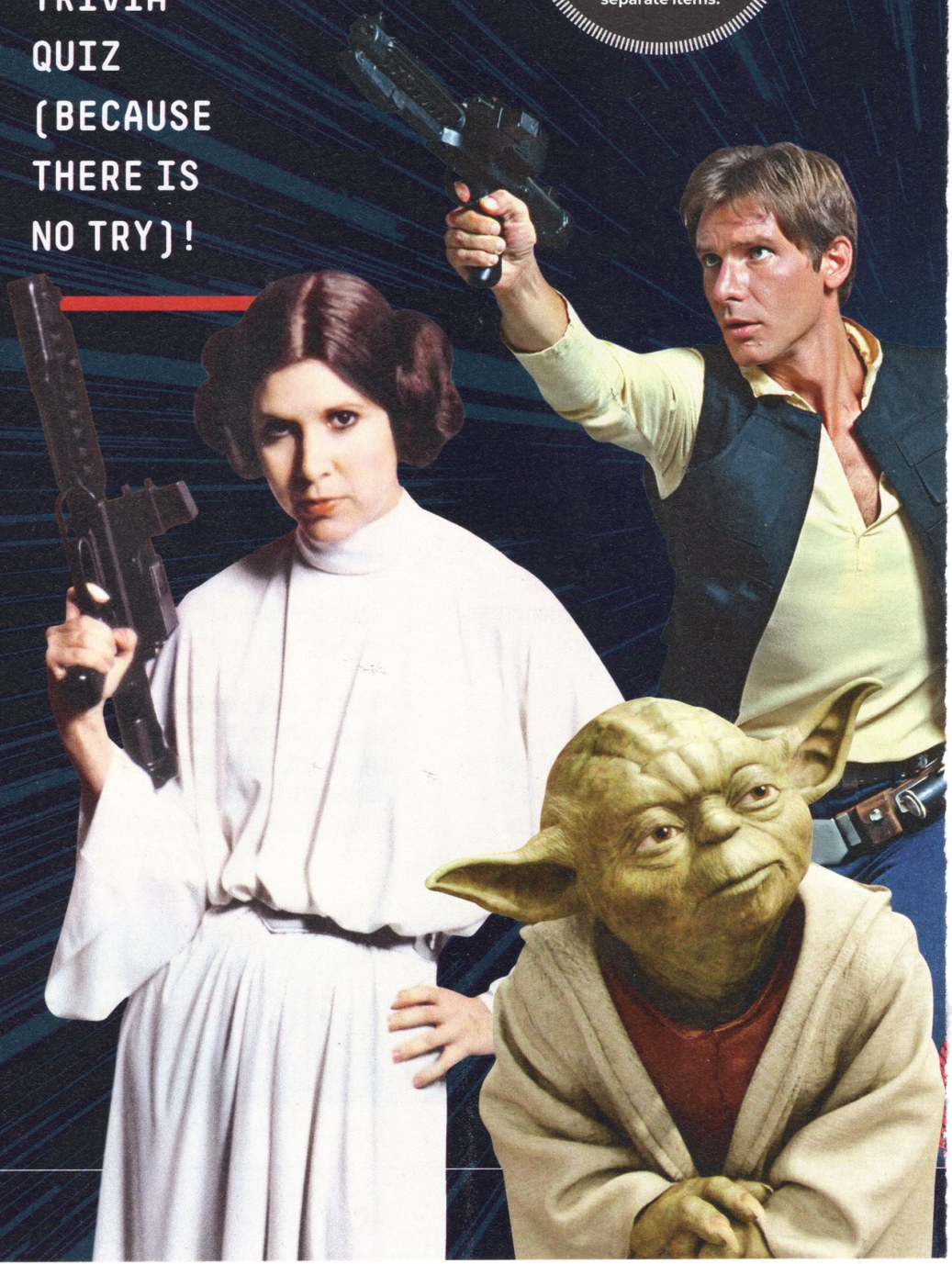
CALLING ALL JEDI GENIUSES!

THINK YOU'RE AN EXPERT IN ALL THINGS *STAR WARS*? THEN TAKE THIS TRIVIA QUIZ (BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRY)!



Space Keepsakes

The world's largest collection of fan-owned *Star Wars* memorabilia reportedly includes more than half a million separate items.



1 Who is the only actor to have appeared in every *Star Wars* movie?
A Anthony Daniels
B Peter Mayhew
C Mark Hamill
D George Takei

2 What planet is Darth Maul from?
A Tatooine
B Kashyyk
C Dathomir
D Ovechkin

3 What line is used in every movie from the Skywalker saga?
A "It's a trick!"
B "Live long and prosper"
C "Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi, you're my only hope"
D "I have a bad feeling about this"

4 What planet does the movie *Empire Strikes Back* begin on?
A Krypton
B Dagobah
C Coruscant
D Hoth

5 Who is the leader of Obi-Wan's 212th Clone Division?
A Commander Cody
B Sgt. Rock
C Admiral Akbar
D Captain Rex

6 What is the heart of a lightsaber?
A 2 AA batteries
B Jedi mind tricks
C Kyber crystal
D The Force

7 What legendary weapon was wielded by the first Mandalorian Jedi?
A The Darksaber
B Double-sided lightsaber
C Sarcasm
D Force lightning

8 What planet is the home of the Republic and the Jedi Council?
A Mon Calamari
B Apollo Creed
C Endor
D Coruscant

9 Who commissioned the Clone Army?
A Yoda
B Mace Windu
C Thanos
D Sifo-Dyas

10 Who is Luke Skywalker's childhood best friend?
A Biggs Darklighter
B Wedge Antilles
C Han Solo
D Dick Grayson

11 What is "The Rule of 2"?
A There can only be two people named Skywalker
B Every planet must have a set of Doublemint Twins
C There are only two Sith, master and apprentice
D A Jedi can carry up to two lightsabers

12 What is Luke Skywalker's call sign when flying his X-Wing?
A Red Five
B Red Fifty-Five
C Red Rover
D Red Wedding

13 Who is the leader of the droid army?
A Asajj Ventress
B Anne Droid
C Darth Sidious
D General Grievous

14 How old is Yoda when he dies?
A 450
B 39, but it's been a really hard 39
C 900
D 3,000

15 Who was Count Dooku's Padawan before he left the Jedi Order?
A Qui-Gon Jinn
B Anakin Skywalker
C Obi-Wan Kenobi
D Dark Helmet

16 What is Boba Fett's occupation?
A Moisture farmer
B Bounty hunter
C Cantina bartender
D None (he still lives in his mom's basement)

17 Which planet is home of the clones?
A Cybertron
B Endor
C Vespa
D Kamino

18 What well-known actor auditioned for the role of Han Solo?
A Tom Selleck
B Sylvester Stallone
C Chevy Chase
D Burt Reynolds

19 What do the initials ARC stand for?
A All Real Clones
B Absolutely Ridiculous Characters
C Advanced Recon Commando
D Anthony Richard Calrissian

20 Who is in charge of the space attack on the Death Star II?
A Admiral Ackbar
B Jar Jar Binks Jr.
C Capt. B. Z. Lightyear
D Poe Dameron

ANSWER KEY 1. A; 2. C; 3. D; 4. D; 5. A; 6. C; 7. A; 8. D; 9. D; 10. A; 11. C; 12. A; 13. D; 14. C; 15. A; 16. B; 17. D; 18. B; 19. C; 20. A

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THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO

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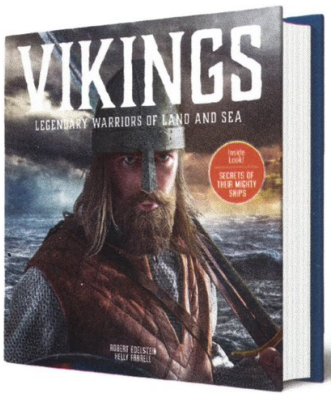
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Lasting Legacy

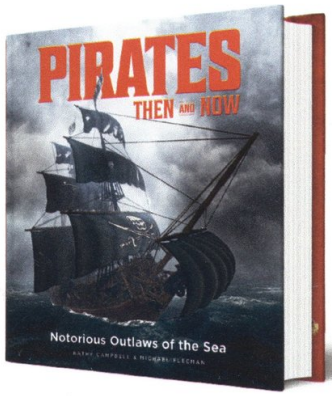
Fans often tell Mark Hamill they've named their kids Luke and Leia, leaving him "taken aback at how (*Star Wars*) has inspired people."

CHECK OUT THESE GREAT READS!



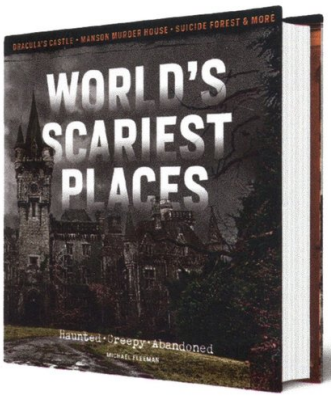
They Sailed the Seas to Conquer New Lands

Join us on an epic voyage to discover the essence of these seafaring Scandinavians—their daily lives and death rituals, weapons of war and much more. Plus: their incredible ships.



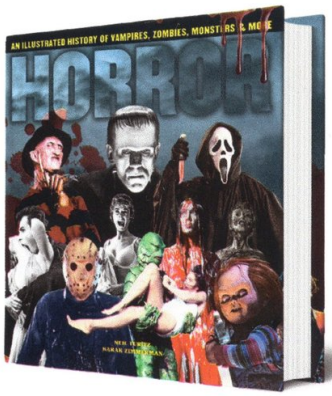
Hoist the Jolly Roger and Climb Aboard

From Captain Hook to Captain Jack Sparrow, this book is a rollicking adventure that covers the complete history of the greatest cutthroats, corsairs and scourges to ever loot, pillage and plunder.



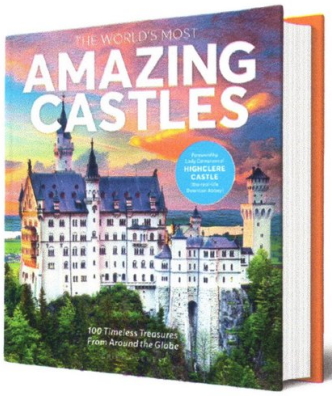
Your Passport to Pure Terror

Journey around the globe to places so chilling that only the ghosts dare to roam. Discover all the eerie things you can't see—but you'll feel against the back of your neck!



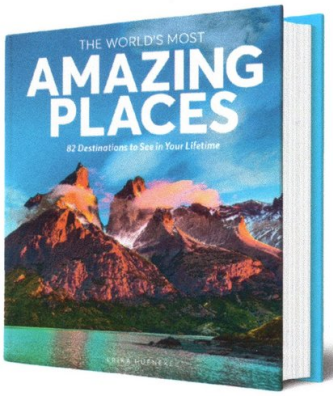
What Gives You the Chills?

From slashers to the supernatural, werewolves to witches, we love being frightened. This book is an in-depth reference to all things that go bump in the night.



Once Upon a Time...

Castles have captured our imagination for centuries. This guide takes you to 100 of the world's most fascinating, revealing their remarkable histories and secrets.



Earthly Delights

From the jagged granite peaks of Patagonia to the rainbow-colored hot springs of Yellowstone National Park, the world is full of spectacular sites.

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TO SEE ALL OF OUR BOOKS, FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!
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"THIS IS THE WAY."

THE MANDALORIAN



Din Djarin, aka The Mandalorian, may be a tough-as-beskar-iron bounty hunter, but when it comes to Grogu, he's the galaxy's greatest dad. Mando always has Baby Yoda's best interest at heart, even when it hurts. This image was part of the marketing for the successful launch of the series on Disney+.